

2014 Annual Report



**RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION
OF TAMANIA INC**



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PATRON: His Excellency, Peter Underwood (Dec.)

Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Kate Warner AM,
Governor of Tasmania.

STATE PRESIDENT	Miss Simone Hayers
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Miss Prue Dennis
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Miss Tiffany Morley
IMMEDIATE PASR PRESIDENT	Mrs Katie Coad
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CHAIR	Mr Angus Verhay

RURAL YOUTH LIFE MEMBERS:

Mr H.R Reynolds (Dec.)	Mr David Dunn
Mr Graeme Tole (Dec.)	Mr Wesley Hazell
Mr T.B Stancombe (Dec.)	Mr D. Bennett (Dec.)
Mrs Carol Axton	Mr Henry Burbury
Mr Don Walker	Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons
Mr John Dent	Mr E.C Mackay (Dec.)
Mr C.A Holland (Dec.)	Mr Peter Gladwell
Mr Noel Beven	Mr Keith Topfer (Dec.)
Mr Darryl Baker	Mr Dale Badcock
Miss Elizabeth Skirving	Mr Richard Colman

RURAL YOUTH OFFICE STAFF:

STATE ADMINISTRATOR	Judy Mclean
FINANCIAL OFFICER	Linda Perkins
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	Selena Flanagan
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT	Kadesaha Bishop

Rural Youth Council 2014...

Northern Region:

Brad Lindsay
Laura Smith
Mitchell Beer
Luke Reid

North –West Region

Jake Williams
Ryan Langley
Danielle Williams
Ethan Williams
Korey Stratton

Southern Region

Phillipa Green
Dale Hayers
Richard Allwright
Victoria Percival
Nicole Elliott

Secondments

Kaysie Wood

Agfest Chair

Amanda Bayles

Property Management

Keith Lee

Directors

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Prue Dennis

Katie Coad & Tiffany Morley

Dale Hayers

Katie Coad

Simone Hayers

Deyarna Bowen

Dale Hayers

Phillipa Green

Simone Hayers

Deyarna Bowen

Katie Coad

Nicole Elliott

Amanda Bayles

Simone Hayers

Audit Report...

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014, the statement of profit or loss for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act (Tasmania) 1964* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

Audit Report...

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Auditor's Opinion

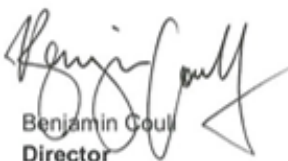
In our opinion

- the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc at 31 December 2014, and of its performance for the year then ended;
- we obtained the information we required for the audit and Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc kept proper accounting records and other books during the year ended 31 December 2014; and
- the rules relating to the administration of the funds of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc have been observed.

Basis of Accounting

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


Synectic Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd


Benjamin Coul
Director

Date: 5 February 2015

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Revenue - Rural Youth		
Interest received	22,593	16,041
Membership subscriptions	5,085	6,669
Sponsorship	12,000	14,025
Other income	11,095	19,277
	<u>50,773</u>	<u>56,012</u>
Expenses - Rural Youth		
Administration	47,082	75,463
Study, education, leadership and training	16,331	30,496
Member expenses	15,093	10,320
Sundry expenses	37,249	28,118
	<u>115,755</u>	<u>144,397</u>
Net Result - Rural Youth	<u>(64,982)</u>	<u>(88,385)</u>

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue - Agfest		
Entrance fees	595,832	658,220
Site fees	496,325	484,411
Sponsorship	70,261	81,651
Other income	12,933	17,304
	<u>1,175,351</u>	<u>1,241,586</u>
Expenses - Agfest		
Administration	34,879	101,308
Advertising and promotion	53,651	39,710
Catering	31,886	32,692
Depreciation	7,386	4,626
Insurance	18,615	23,682
Waste management	64,796	63,477
Security	36,175	35,784
Site expenses	42,776	32,127
Trade expo expenses	25,366	26,404
Sponsorship	39,322	47,349
Honorariums	20,428	20,270
Donations	6,935	5,864
Sundry expenses	66,515	55,704
Traffic management	11,720	14,091
Loading and lifting	24,097	15,239
Electricity and gas	7,627	13,752
Communication	24,320	24,978
Travel and transportation costs	33,456	28,520
Expo and demonstration costs	25,421	16,738
	<u>575,371</u>	<u>602,315</u>
Net Result - Agfest	<u>599,980</u>	<u>639,271</u>

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue - Property Management		
Rent and lease income	27,866	32,134
Service fees	-	120,000
Sundry income	19,674	22,984
	47,540	175,118
Expenses - Property Management		
Depreciation	40,076	38,670
Employment expenses	300,070	255,826
Insurance	9,886	29,354
Electricity	22,978	28,309
Repairs, maintenance, upgrades and other equipment expenses	116,848	104,300
Sponsorship	9,326	15,431
Administration	48,253	54,066
Rates, taxes and security	16,748	16,223
Sundry expenses	10,563	9,740
	574,748	551,919
Net Result - Property Management	(527,208)	(376,801)
NET SURPLUS	7,790	174,085

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	440,110	440,870
Trade and other receivables	3	9,730	11,395
Inventories	4	6,634	9,846
Prepayments		18,711	-
Total Current Assets		475,185	462,111
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	1,670,678	1,691,577
Total Non-Current Assets		1,670,678	1,691,577
TOTAL ASSETS		2,145,863	2,153,688
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	42,051	66,585
Provisions	7	45,481	7,385
Total Current Liabilities		87,532	73,970
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	7	-	29,179
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	29,179
TOTAL LIABILITIES		87,532	103,149
NET ASSETS		2,058,331	2,050,539
EQUITY			
Reserves	8	314,016	314,016
Accumulated funds		1,744,315	1,736,523
TOTAL EQUITY		2,058,331	2,050,539

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

2014

	Accumulated Funds	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2014	1,736,523	314,016	2,050,539
Surplus/(deficit) for year	7,790	-	7,790
Balance at 31 December 2014	1,744,315	314,016	2,058,331

2013

	Accumulated Funds	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2013	1,562,438	314,016	1,876,454
Surplus/(deficit) for year	174,085	-	174,085
Balance at 31 December 2013	1,736,523	314,016	2,050,539

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

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

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

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

(b) Income Tax

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

(c) Revenue and other income

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

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

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

(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

(e) Inventories

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

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Depreciation

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

Buildings	2.5%
Plant and equipment	20% - 50%

(g) Employee benefits

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

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
2 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	300	300
Cash at bank	439,810	440,570
	<u>440,110</u>	<u>440,870</u>
3 Trade and other receivables		
Trade debtors	2,510	3,230
Accrued income	5,575	-
GST receivable	1,645	8,165
	<u>9,730</u>	<u>11,395</u>
4 Inventories		
At cost:		
Stock on hand - Rural Youth	1,736	2,354
Stock on hand - Agfest	3,260	3,138
Stock on hand - Other	1,638	4,354
	<u>6,634</u>	<u>9,846</u>
5 Property, plant and equipment		
Land and Buildings		
York Street Property - at independent valuation	225,000	225,000
Meeting Hall and Sheds - at cost	805,705	792,078
Quercus property - at independent valuation	450,000	450,000
Land adjoining Quercus property - at cost	31,500	31,500
Less: accumulated depreciation	(265,535)	(245,421)
	<u>1,246,670</u>	<u>1,253,157</u>
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	218,425	205,227
Less: accumulated depreciation	(194,651)	(178,847)
	<u>23,774</u>	<u>26,380</u>
Other assets		
At cost	482,314	482,314
Less: accumulated depreciation	(82,080)	(70,275)
	<u>400,234</u>	<u>412,039</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>1,670,678</u>	<u>1,691,576</u>

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

2014	2013
\$	\$

5 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

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

Movements in Carrying Amounts

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

	Land and Buildings \$	Furniture and equipment \$	Other Assets \$	Total \$
Year ended 31 December 2014				
Balance at the beginning of year	1,253,157	26,380	412,039	1,691,576
Additions	13,627	13,199	-	26,826
Depreciation expense	(20,114)	(15,805)	(11,805)	(47,724)
Balance at the end of the year	1,246,670	23,774	400,234	1,670,678

6 Trade and other payables

Other payables	2,288	33
Credit card	1,635	3,879
Bonds held	8,100	6,700
Trade creditors	24,251	37,770
PAYG payable	-	12,396
Superannuation payable	5,780	5,808
	42,051	66,585

7 Employee Benefits

Current liabilities		
Provision for annual leave	11,199	4,731
Provision for time in lieu	2,109	2,654
Provision for long service leave	32,173	-
	45,481	7,385

Financial Report...

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
7 Employee Benefits (continued)		
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave	-	29,179
	<u>-</u>	<u>29,179</u>
8 Reserves		
Revaluation reserve		
Revaluation - Quercus 1999	304,973	304,973
Revaluation - York Street 1999	9,043	9,043
	<u>314,016</u>	<u>314,016</u>
9 Members' Guarantee		

The Association is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) 1964* and members' liability is limited by guarantee. If the Association is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 2 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Association. At 31 December 2014 the number of members was 177.

State President ...

In March 2014, the Rural Youth members allowed me to continue the Rural Youth State President role that I had held during 2013. This time, taking the role on again was not as daunting as it was the first time around. I knew what was expected of me and where things were at with the Organisation and where the direction was heading.



This year was particularly challenging as we saw our Executive Officer Shona Beswick leave. I won't touch on it much in detail as most people know the full story. It was a personal challenge/struggle along with the struggle that the Organisation faced to get through the weeks and months. I am thankful that I had some committed and willing people standing next to me to make sure that not only were I ok, but the decisions that I had made were supported. Thank you to all these people, you know who you are.

I would like to thank all those members of Council that put their hand up for a role without having to be asked and for those that simply turned up to ensure that we could hold a meeting and provided constructive feedback or comments. The time that you have given to Rural Youth is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Rural Youth Councillors for 2014/2015 who were: Prue Dennis, Tiffany Morley, Deyarna Bowen, Katie Coad, Dale Hayers, Luke Reid, Amanda Bayles, Jake Williams, Ethan Williams, Ryan Langley, Danielle Williams, Korey Stratton, Mitchell Beer, Laura Smith, Nicole Elliott, Phillipa Green, Tori Percival, Richard Allwright and Brad Lindsay.

Out of the above the executive committee was made up of Katie, Tiffany, Dale, Deyarna, Prue, Phillipa, Laura and Richard who always made themselves available when I required opinions and comments on certain things.

The Rural Youth Council Committee for 2014/2015 was as follows:

State Finance – Deyarna Bowen put her hand up to take on a second year the role as the State Finance Coordinator for Rural Youth Council. Thank you Deyarna for all the work you have done in compiling budgets and budget letters and chasing overdue monies from clubs.

State President Continued ...

Agriculture – Unfortunately this position remained unfilled during 2014, but I look forward to seeing the person take on this role and really make something out of the coordinator position.

Competitions –Prue Dennis stepped up again to look after the Competitions Coordinator role after take over this coordinator role late in 2013. At the State AGM in March 2014, we saw a new way to look at public speaking to make it less daunting and get more people involved. Well done Prue, and thank you for taking on this role.

Leadership & Training – Thank you to Kate for stepping up and taking on this role after a few months of me juggling it on top of things. Kate in her time organised a survey of members to determine what training is important to them. Well done, and I look forward to seeing lots of training in 2015.

Promotions – Dale stepped up to take on the Promotions role in 2014 after a little nudge. I will admit I didn't tell him the full commitments of his role with the newly established Sponsorship and Promotions Committee but he has done a wonderful job ensuring that media releases are done and ensuring that our organisation is promoted positively.

Rural Youth Feature – Dale Hayers was appointed to this role in 2013, continuing his run as the third year that he has been responsible for looking after our Rural Youth Feature Tent at Agfest, but he continues to outdo himself with this year the focus on being what Rural Youth Tasmania offers. Thank you Dale for again, helping to show off Rural Youth and all the possibilities that there are.

Newsletter – Thank you to Deyarna for taking on this role. You have done a great job each month compiling the newsletter. I know from personal experience how committed you need to be with this role to ensure that the newsletter and the annual report is delivered on time. Thanks again for taking on this role.

Events – This is the second year that this coordinator role has been in place and it seems to a great inclusion. Well done to Tiffany and Kate for taking on this

Top Teams – In 2014, this coordinator role was appointed to Nicole Elliott as she had expressed interested during the time in which coordinators were being allocated. Nicole did a wonderful job with the teams that she had entered and I am sure that everyone had a great time using the Scout Tasmania climbing tower.

State President Continued...

Rural Round Up – Thank you to Phillipa Green for taking on this role, it is amazing to see the talent that our members have in this competition. The room looked wonderful after all the entries were submitted and judged. Our members certainly have a lot of hidden talents.

Young Farmer Competition – Initially this role was left vacant, as it is can be such a daunting coordinator position. Amanda Bayles approached me wanting to look at the jobs required and then said that she was happy to take on the role. Amanda did a great job in organising the modules for the entrants from the Region Run Off's then onto the State Final. Well done Amanda.

Study Tours – Katie Coad took on this role again in 2014 after doing this also in 2013. Katie did a great job in organising the six exchanges all from Europe. I know this was a challenging role and at times you wanted to quit, but you hung in there and they all left safely. Well done!

Sponsorship & Grants – This was a role that I took on as State President, and I learnt a lot. We formed a new committee for sponsorship and promotions. We spent a few months revamping the way the sponsorship package looks and getting ready to sign new sponsors up. I look forward to seeing the final document in printed form in early 2015.

Merchandise – Merchandise in 2014 was left vacant as no-one was interested in this role. No new merchandise was ordered, but we did a sell-out of old merchandise and will continue to do this into 2015 where I look forward to seeing new merchandise with hopefully both logos on them.

Website – this year, I took it upon myself to look after the website. Although it may appear that the website is old and outdated, this year we spent the time meeting and making decisions on what we want the website to look like. In 2015, we will be able to launch the website and ensure that it is kept current and fresh.

In 2014, Rural Youth Council had lots of events, functions and meetings. The year started with our Annual General Meeting in March which was held at Fonthill, Lemont and was dubbed the 'Meeting in the Middle'. Thank you to Southern Region for hosting, the event was really a laid back event where people were able to meet other members and relax and have fun rather than spending consecutive days at the AGM.

State President Continued...

After AGM, the next event was Agfest. I would like to congratulate the Agfest Committee, Chairman Amanda Bayles and all of the members and volunteers involved in organising the 2014 event, it certainly was a huge success. I had the opportunity to be involved as the Personnel Coordinator and dealt with every single volunteer and coordinator during the event. It was a fantastic experience and certainly testing my organisational skills.

The momentum of Rural Youth events continued with State Ball held in the North East of the State. Thank you to Northern Region for hosting a “night under the sea” evening at the Bridport Resort. The evening was lovely, with everyone dressed up in suits and dresses.

Congratulations to the study tour recipients – Prue Dennis who will be heading to the UK, Richard Allwright and Tobias tenBensel who will be both going on the Young Endeavour, Andrea White who was awarded RYLA, Alex White who was awarded a self nominated study Tour – a shearing school.

Attention turned from State Ball in July to Young Farmer Competition and Dinner in September. A big thank you to North West Region for organising a great night (from what I hear) as unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the dinner, and left the announcements with my Senior Vice President.

I was in attendance during the day and witnessed lots of the modules, from lamington making, through to first aid application and then the theory modules. It was great to see all the competitors being able to enjoy the hands on side of things but then also focus when needed for the theory.

The competition was a tight one, with the overall winner being Prue Dennis from Westmorland Rural Youth. Congratulations must go to Will McConnon (Oatlands) and Meg Kluver Jones (Kingborough Huon) for coming runners up and to all other competitors – Richard Petrie (Dorset), Dale Hayers (Kingborough Huon), Morgan Waters (Westmorland) Martin McConnon (Isolated), Brigid Worldon (North Motton), Peter Damen (Devonport), Casey Jones (Isolated), Phillipa Green (Sorell), Matthew Bayles (Westmorland), Ethan Williams (North Motton), Keith Lee (Isolated) and Malcolm Campbell (Westmorland).

State President Continued...

The Young Farmer Competition was one of the last events for Rural Youth for the year, with the last few months of the year quiet for some members but busy for others involved in Agricultural Shows and the like. I know that lots of clubs like my club Kingborough Huon are heavily involved in their local shows and strongly encourage clubs that aren't involved to consider getting involved as there is so much to benefit from, from getting involved and getting out there in your community.

The final Rural Youth organised event was the Tooms Lake Tumbler event, this year held in November at Lemont. In 2014, the event was again opened to the public, which proved to be a good idea with numbers showing that there were more non members there than members. The event turned out to be a very colourful evening with everyone having a great night. It was a great night, and I am sure everyone else had a great time to, I look forward to seeing what 2015 will bring for this event.

During my term as State President, I attended many functions and meetings on behalf of the Organisation. I can safely say that many people know about us, and the amazing job that we do. We should be proud of our Organisation and continue promoting what young people can do.

I have also been involved in the Property Management Committee during my term as State President. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Angus Verhay and Keith Lee for looking after the Property Management Committee as Chairman during the period that I have been State President in 2014.

Keith, I wish you all the best in continuing to learn the role and all that it involves. I look forward to seeing lots of members at working bees into the future to ensure that our properties Quercus Rural Youth Park and our Rural Youth Head Office continue to be strongly occupied with site hires.

The culture and branding that Rural Youth started in 2013 continued in 2014 with the help of Effective Naturally's Rick Martin and we continue to head along the right path. We commenced media training with Melissa Lewarn Communications and these sessions will continue for free for members into 2015.

Finally, I have a few people that I would like to thank.

Tiffany Morley – thank you for stepping up from a member role in the role as Junior Vice President. This is a role that allows you to be as involved or not involved in how the Organisation works. I wish you all the best with your future in Rural Youth.

State President Continued...

Katie Coad – thank you for being there as my Immediate Past President. Thank you for your support, assistance perseverance when you knew something was wrong and thanks for the continued contributions that you make to Rural Youth.

Prue Dennis – Prue, you have been my Senior Vice President for the past two years, and from not knowing you very well to knowing a lot more about you over the last 12 months. We had an interesting journey early on in 2014 but I know now that you always have my back and you have been such a great support to me. I wish you all the very best for your Study Tour and I look forward to seeing what your Rural Youth future has install for you.

Thank you must also go to all my mentors to name a couple - Wesley Hazell, Jayne Clark, David Dunn and Paul Bennett, when times got tough (and let me assure you there were many of those) or I needed advice on things that you were always a phone call away. The support that you have provided me has been amazing, invaluable and I cannot thank you all enough, although I do look forward to not hearing *'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger'* all the time!

One must not forget to thank the ladies in the Rural Youth Office – Judy, Selena, Linda and Kadesha. You all have provided me with the consistency in my role. You all gave me the gentle prod that I needed in order to get my agenda's sorted out or send my minutes in for issuing. You all provide such valuable support that one needs in this role as State President. The job that you all do is amazing and each and every member should take a minute or two out of their life to say thank you. It has certainly been a stretching time for all of us, but we got there in the end!

The second last lot of people that I would like to thank is my family, my mum Carol and brother Dale. You both make life easier. Dale, you always manage to make me put things in perspective or stick up for me when I give up trying to. Thank you both again, and we can all look forward to a quieter household that doesn't involve lots of meetings of a night time.

The last person I would like to thank is Ben. 2014 was a challenging year for us when it came to Rural Youth. From someone that didn't know much about the organisation, you certainly knew every up and every down that I had and you were there all the way with me. I don't know how I would have don't this year without you and look forward to all the exciting things in our future together, now that life will become just that little bit quieter!!!

State President Continued ...

In summing up, what 2015 holds for Rural Youth at this point is clear, we will be continuing on with the trend from 2014 although I certainly hope with a lot more positive vibes than 2014.

Rural Youth is an amazing Organisation with an amazing group of young people. No other Organisation offers the ability to be able to develop skills and lifelong friendships and I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be your State President in 2013 and again in 2014.

Simone Hayers
Rural Youth State President



Agfest...

58,674 people through the gates, 765 exhibitors but I think back to Agfest 2014 and the big memory that jumps out to me is, 'the year the plane crash landed in east car park'.

I can assure you more than a plane crashed landed at Agfest 2014. There was a dedicated bunch of Agfest committee members and Rural Youth volunteers behind it all. Everyone had their job to do and they did not, at all let the plane crash landing stop them doing it.

In 2014 we had some changes with a new security and catering company and while it wasn't all smooth sailing well done to all involved, and thanks to all the outside help along the way.

For the month leading up to Agfest we had some great weather, but of course it had to crack at some stage, and it did on the Tuesday set up and Friday, while it created a bit of havoc, nothing we couldn't get past, as I say there are two things that we cannot control for Agfest and that is the weather and the amount of people that walk through the gates, if we can do everything else right then we all deserve a giant pat on the back!

Well done to everyone for doing their bit to make sure that we still opened the gates with pride at 8am Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. This showed all the work from Rural Youth, Property Management and Agfest for the past year.

There were plenty of positives for the week with the Crack up Sisters performing in Central Arena for Friday and Saturday and even joined us for dinner on Friday evening. During Agfest Jimmy Giggie joined the ABC tent which excited lots of adults and children, as he is a regular visitor in many lounge rooms across the state.

This year we also continued the official opening at Thursday lunch time in central arena followed by a meet and greet in the function centre which was well received by all. The even better part was presenting the site awards to the exhibitors on their site and seeing their faces when you walked up to them and asked if they were free for a chat with the Chairman and Exhibitor manager – they were all so ecstatic when we told them the news!

Agfest Continued ...

And then there was all the fun and games as normal in the crib room, but what happens in the crib room stays in the crib room, though one leak I would like to thank the lovely return Irish exchange John and his sidekicks Matthew, Marty and Kylie by coercion for our room decorations, I am still finding bean bag balls today!

Agfest Chairman isn't a job you take on, on your own, it's a job you take on and need wonderful support from family and friends, committee and our office staff who all work together – we are one mighty big team, which I can say I did have the support of and I thank each and every person who helped me along the way.

Amanda Bayles.
Agfest Chairman 2014



Resource Allocation Committee . . .

2014 has certainly been a very busy year for those members who are a part of the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) with an increased schedule of meetings to work through a range of matters.

The resignation of the Executive Officer in May saw a slight shift in the traditional role of RAC as we assumed some of the responsibilities that had been sitting within this role. The establishment of several sub-committees and short-term working groups saw a large number of issues worked through in a timely manner, in many cases once RAC had assisted with the initial work around these matters they were handed back to the committees to manage.

The Advisory members on RAC have assumed a more proactive mentoring role with the current members providing some much needed support to the State President, Agfest and Property Management Chairman and their committees.

The committee has committed resources to the development a comprehensive Work Health and Safety system for the organisation, the development of an online Agfest application system and the commissioning of an Administrative Review of the of the organisation into the future as well as identifying gaps in our current administrative procedures.

The start of 2015 sees us working towards a new administrative structure with the recruitment of a General Manager underway, policies and procedures being updated and staff position descriptions being reviewed.

The new administrative structure has seen the position of State Administrator (part time) being made redundant. RAC would like to acknowledge the significant contribution to the organisation that Judy McLean has made during her 30 years as State Administrator; she has been a part of many of our journeys through Rural Youth and her contribution will be missed. A few lines in a report does not adequately reflect the gratitude that we have for Judy's expertise and support over an extended period.

Resource Allocation Committee Continued . . .

I would like to acknowledge all members of RAC who have provided timely responses to requests, attended numerous meetings and in general been there to support each other. I am proud of your commitment to the organisation through what has been a somewhat challenging period and I thank you for being able to put the organisation first. We have certainly achieved a lot in 12 months and while there is still a long way to go, we have stabilised the foundations which will enable us to strengthen and grow into the future.

**Jayne Clark, Chairman
Resource Allocation Committee**

Agriculture . . .

Unfortunately this year we were unable to fill the role of Agriculture.

We look forward to seeing this role filled in 2015 with lots of reports and information being passed on to our Rural Youth members.

**Simone Hayers
State President**

Competitions...

In the lyrics of Keith Urban's song, 'days go by', they really do, and my, this year has flown. The start of 2014 saw the nominations come flooding in for most outstanding and best new members from our clubs around the state. It is always so pleasing, as a senior member of the organisation, to see such young, enthusiastic, and motivated members, is promising at least. It reminds us that the organisation that we behold and love is something very special and unique.



The outstanding and best new member selection weekend was held at 'Fonthill' the same weekend as our AGM. This was unfortunately held this way due to time constraints in organising judges to hold the weekend. With a class act of judges, the interviews got underway. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, some nominated members who were unable to attend the weekend, but a phone interview was offered to these members.

On the day of the AGM it was with great pride and prestige, that we presented **Tiffany Morley, from Sisters Creek with the prize for Best New Member, and Dale Hayers, from Kingborough Huon for Most Outstanding Member.** A massive congratulations goes out to these two members, who consistently gave 110% to their clubs, and regions. These members received \$1100 to put towards an approved training cost. I was fortunate enough to be awarded most outstanding member in 2013 and felt very proud and privileged at being able to hand the award on.

On the same weekend, again at the AGM, there was impromptu public speaking, with very 'interesting' topics. Where everyone was seated around the dinner table and was asked to speak about their topics off the cuff. The responses given were very interesting and humorous at best. The prize was given to **Kaysie Wood (nee Lade)** for her entertaining discussion given on why size really does matter.

Competitions Continued . . .

Top Club prizes were announced the next day, and only receiving a disappointing number of entries, the award was given in equal parts to **Sorell and Kingborough Huon**

On the Sunday afternoon, at the conclusion of the AGM, all of the respective clubs present, sat down for the quiz, where we began with 6 teams and whittled it down to 2. The finish was positively nail biting with 1 point between common north to south rivals, Westmorland and Kingborough Huon. **Kingborough Huon** were the eventual winners with a show down sure to happen in the near future.

The year continued to run as it did. Agfest came and went and saw the passing of winter. With the arrival of spring, came the coming of the annual shooting competition. This as per usual, was held at the SSAA approved range at Bracknell. As always, the guys from the Bracknell range are always helpful and obliging and willing to help us out in any way, shape, or form. The simulated field was a tightly contested competition with **Phil Downham and Andrea White, both of Central Highlands**, taking out the top gong with equal points. The Shotgun module was won by **Anthony Franklin**, with no official female competitors, a prize was not awarded. Hopefully we will see more female competitor's in years to come.

The conclusion of the shooting competition saw the end of the official competitions for the year 2014.

Hopefully in the next year, we intend on running some more fun filled weekends, to not only build trust and team building, but friendship and have a blast.

Remember everyone, "we are all in a race, it does not matter if we win or lose, we all finish in the same place" Live life to the fullest and I hope to see everyone somewhere in 2015.

Prue Dennis

Competitions Director

Events - Tooms Lake Tumbler ...

Rural Youth Tooms Lake Tumbler was held on November 29th 2014! Mainland band, Deep Creek Road was booked and the hope for warmer weather given we were running in November rather than July!



This event saw two major successes;

- ♦ **Facebook;** in the week leading up to the event, this Facebook page absolutely maxed out with audience and promotion figures!

Starting out with 460 followers the week of 15th November with 9 new likers that week, this was the week the Tas Country article was printed. Total reach was 1245 people, with 204 people engaged in conversation regarding Tooms Lake Tumbler 2014.

The following week, Facebook was still improving, with 469 followers, 9 new likers in the week of the 22nd November, total reach of 2430 people with 460 people engaged in conversation.

By the 28th November; the page reached 488 followers, had gained 28 new followers in 6 days, reaching 3820 people, and had 684 people engaged in conversation regarding this event!

Post event, with the uploading of event photos and sharing the story of the TLT 2014 adventure, final figure recorded on 2nd December was an astounding 536 followers, total of 74 new likers in just three weeks, reaching a total of 8142 people, with 1616 people engaged with this event... all for FREE!

Events - Tooms Lake Tumbler Continued ...

Attendees; whilst seeing 300+ people attend would have been great, and unfortunately we did not reach this figure, we did however have **over 90 non rural youth members attend this event!** This enabled our Organisation a prime promotional opportunity in this is our event we host, we reward our financial members by offering a cheaper entry price, and provide a great night in a safe environment

We introduced the Tooms Lake Challenge to 2014, which was a fun obstacle race that the quickest time won a prize! Over 20 people participated in this!

Instead of tumblers we had stubby holders printed, and traded in the drench packs for cans, this proved to work well.

Thank you to Allan and Jenny Johnson for allowing us to use your property, Woodland Park, Lemont. Thank you to the band, Deep Creek Road. Huge thanks to Bryan Moore for arranging the staging for our band, and to the members than helped on the night.

Thanks to Roger Hanson at Tas Country for featuring our event in their paper, your support of Rural Youth events and news is much appreciated.

Thank you to Kaysie Wood who helped set up, pack up and plan this event, and to Tom Wolfe who coordinated Deep Creek Road attending.

Thank you to Rural Youth Council for allowing us to plan this event,

Tiffany Morley & Kate Coad
Events Directors



Feature Tent...

Once again in 2014, the Rural Youth Feature Tent was the main hub in which members of the public could gain a valuable insight into the both what Rural Youth is and how it runs.

This year, the main theme was to promote the benefits of being a Rural Youth member, including the ability to travel the world on the exchange program and the terrific competitions including the Young Farmer of the Year Event.



During the three days of Agfest we signed up many new members, of which we hope may turn into long term and passionate members of our organisation.

We also chose to complete a run-out on lots of our old promotional materials, so goods were sold at crazy low prizes and many of the kiddies at Agfest enjoyed the ability to get some free goodies!

A big thanks to Kaysie Wood with her help in organising the Feature Tent and best of luck to her in the coming years taking over this important role of promoting the organisation to the public.

Dale Hayers
Rural Youth Feature Tent Director

Leadership & Training . . .

I took on the role of Leadership and Training mid-year with the purpose to discover what our members wanted in means of education/training and what types of leadership activities they were interested in.



During discussion at a Rural Youth Council meeting it was obvious rather than be educated in the stereotypical leadership courses/experience, members actually wanted to take a more relaxed approach. They wanted to ascertain leadership and team building within their group/networks by running adventures like camping, four-wheel drive weekends, bus trips to events doing things together that while there is an organiser, we are all leaders and displaying qualities of a leader by being involved. From this there was a Mystery Bus Tour organised for December. Unfortunately due to timing, this event didn't go ahead, but is certainly something for Rural Youth Council to investigate running in 2015 at a time when more can attend.

Following on from the meeting, a survey was created for members, non-members and past members to complete. An incentive was attached to this survey, that all completed surveys went in the draw to win a \$50 Allgoods voucher, congratulations to Patrick Pearson, who won this voucher!

The Survey gathered a lot of information for Rural Youth Council to consider and hopefully offer some of the suggested courses in 2015. We had 24 responses to the survey, all of which were financial members. Some of the Feedback gathered was;

- ♦ 95% of replies wanted in house training offered, and 5% of replies wanted external training with members of public, or online courses offered.
- ♦ When asked if members wanted a leadership weekend or just leadership training, majority replies wanted both, this generated the discussion as per above regarding leadership and how to provide the opportunity of leadership.
- ♦ Most replies were happy with the current leadership and training discount on offer (75% of approved courses, capped at \$200 per member)
- ♦ There was strong desire to run weekend training courses, rather than week days/ nights.

When asked how members wanted training opportunities to be communicated to them; majority selected an email from Rural Youth Tasmania as well as promoted on the Rural Youth Facebook page and in the Newsletter, there was interest in communicating via clubs and regions by postal notice, and a text message to members. The Rural Youth website was the least chosen option, which is on trend with the social media communication being so effective.

Leadership & Training Continued...

- ♦ Majority of replies were happy to be featured in the media/promotional activities as taking up a Rural Youth Tasmania Leadership and Training opportunity.
- ♦ July, August, September, and October were the most popular months to run training courses, followed by November and January, December was least popular. This will assist with setting the Training calendar for 2015 and beyond.
- ♦ Members felt that October would be a great month to run a leadership weekend/activity.

The main training ran for Rural Youth this year was Responsible Service of Alcohol and Conflict Resolution training via Access All Areas Training, this was an online course with 27 members participating.

Some Rural Youth Council members were treated to opportunity to a Melissa Lewarn Media Communications training session, there will be more opportunities ran in 2015 for this experience. Attendees were interviewed and recorded so that they could see their selves on camera, during interview and their body language, facial expressions and presentation/manner when conducting interview, this also captured the reaction to a unexpected question during live interview.

Recently Rural Youth Council has agreed to invest in an opportunity presented to us by Simone Hayers, for digital training via the FinPa system. Using the FinPa system you can allocate fire warden training to e.g. John Smith, the system then sends John an email prompt to follow a link and login to complete his warden training, in about one hour at a time that suits John (\$35), done! Once he completes it creates a certificate and tracks all of this in the system for administrator tracking/review processes. This system will be promoted in 2015 for members to start using!

Overall, Leadership and Training, whilst it has been rather quiet on the front of big courses of machinery, first aid etc., we have managed to gather some excellent facts to base the 2015 actions on.

Thank you to Rural Youth Tasmania for allowing me to take on this directorship.

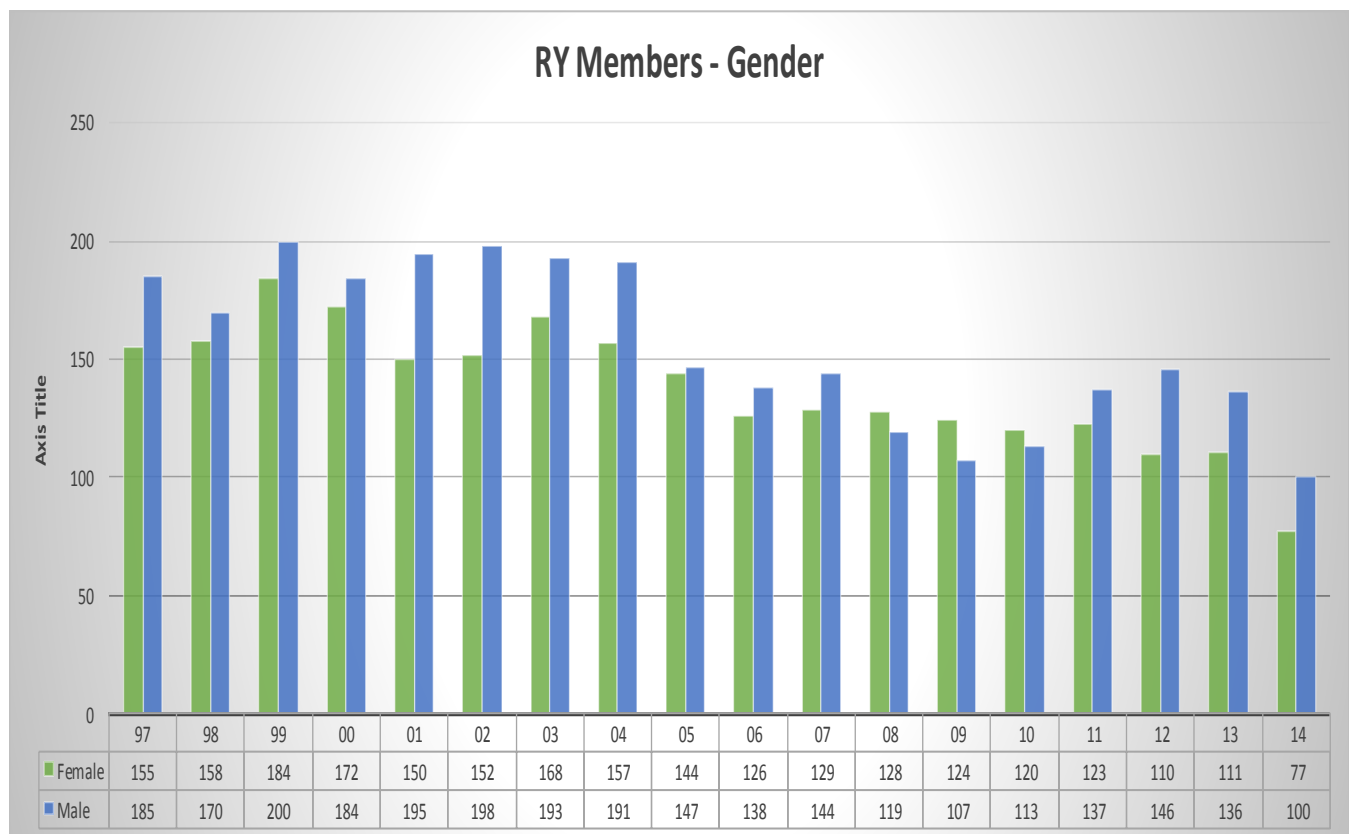
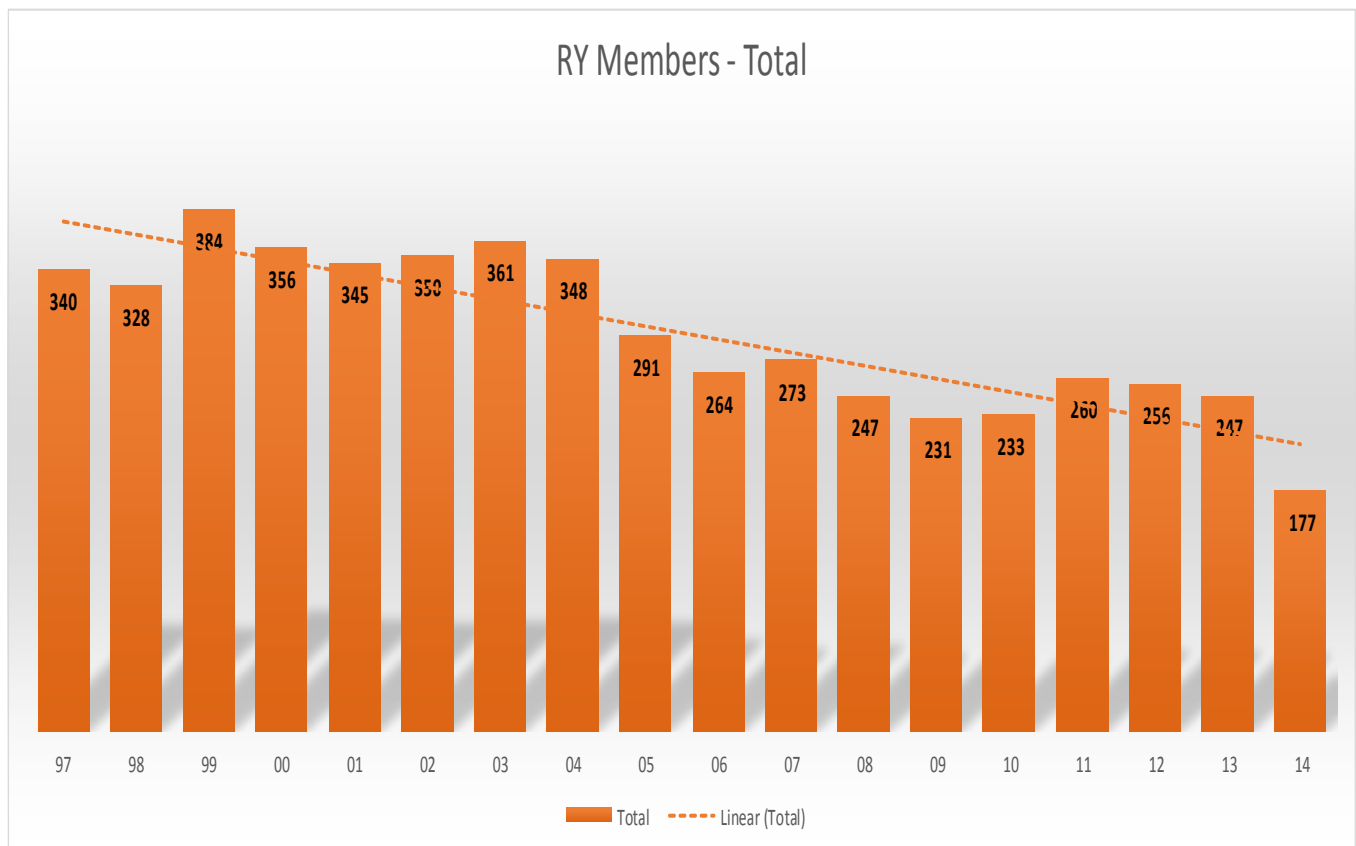
Kate Coad

Leadership & Training Director

Membership Statistics ...

Club	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Brighton	13	24	33	44	16
Central Highlands					12
Circular Head	12	14	15	12	12
Devonport	24	27	15	18	11
Dorset	23	19	19	11	6
Hagley	23	28	15	14	11
Isolated Memembrs	5	11	10	17	14
Kingborough Huon	30	28	32	28	25
North Esk	12	12	17	8	1
North Motton	13	13	13	15	22
Oatlands	20	21	14	9	9
Sisters Creek	9	9	8	13	10
Sorell	6	5	15	14	9
Tamar	8	11	12	2	2
Tasman	10	6	4	4	0
Western Tiers	19	12	12	10	0
Westmorland	6	20	22	28	17
Total Membership	233	260	256	247	177

Membership Statistics Continued ...



Merchandise ...

Unfortunately this year we were unable to fill the role of Merchandise, instead the State President, Simone Hayers handled this role.

In 2014 we saw the introduction of a refreshed Rural Youth logo with some clean cut lines, most will have seen the new logo but it would be interesting to know how many people noticed the difference.



We had a clean out of old merchandise in 2014 in preparation for a new merchandise to be purchased in 2015 with the new look logo on them.

We look forward to seeing this role filled in 2015 with lots of new merchandise being purchased for members or to have member purchase.

Simone Hayers
State President

Newsletter...

2014 was my first year as Newsletter Director, the first few newsletters were very nerve racking as I wasn't sure what I was meant to be doing, once I had set up a template with page numbers , borders etc. Things started to fall into place. This directorship required a lot of patience and time as when you thought you had finished chasing reports and sent it off for printing it was time to start compiling the next one.



I hope you all have enjoyed reading the newsetters over the last year. To make them even more interesting to read in 2015, a suggestion would be that maybe you could volunteer to send your club report in every month , so there is something to read and to let other clubs know what you have been up to in the last month. I would like to congratulate Central Highlands as the only club that submitted a report each month, Well done.

My next big task was to compile this annual report, which took some time to work out what I wanted, how I wanted it set out and so on. But with the big decisions made all I had to do was wait for the reports to come in, for me to proof and edit before including them in to the document.

I would like to thank everyone who sent through photos, gossip, riddles, adverts and reports, this was a huge help and greatly appreciated, don't forget the more you send in the more interesting the newsletter will be.

Good luck to the Newsletter Director for 2015

Deyarna Bowen

Newsletter Director

Promotions...

In 2014, having taken over the role of Rural Youth Promotions Director, I was astonished as to the level of media attention that the organisation receives.

Upon releasing each media item, it was nearly assured that the following day would see many phone calls from media outlets across the State, hoping to find further details about the news that most affects their local community. I quickly learnt that a media release should have as much detail as possible!



With this knowledge, we aimed to try and advertise Rural Youth and its events state-wide and it was pleasantly surprising to see many of our press releases appear in even the small community papers.

Both the Study Tour Exchange program and Young Farmer of the Year received large press coverage as we aimed to deliver something worthy of publishing each month.

During 2014, promotions has worked hard to not only deliver constant press, but much work has also been focused around having a graphic designer work on a set of standard promotional documents that can be simply sent to papers and published for those quiet times of the Rural Youth Calendar. We have also worked hard with the Agfest Promotions team to assure that a constant message is being delivered to show that we are a single and united organisation.

In 2015, we hope that the public will be receiving much more information about the organisation and what happens during the year in Rural Youth. The work done in 2014 to consolidate media relationships should assure that constant media attention is maintained.

Dale Hayers
Promotions Director

Rural Round Up . . .

Rural round up in 2014 saw many creative entries. These included some fancy metal work, and a giraffe made from fruit! The quality of entries was high across all categories, with cooking and photography popular.



Thankyou to all that entered and although there was not a large number of people that entered, it was great competition for the people who did.

Thankyou to Simon D'Alton for helping out to set up and organise on the day. Thankyou must also go to Tracey Badcock and Maureen McKay for judging and also to Simone Hayers for the support when needed.

Congratulations must go to the overall winner: Nicole Elliott, of Kingborough Huon club. Well done to everyone else that entered: Ricky Edson, Alicia Glatte, Danielle Williams and Andrea White.

Hope everyone enters in 2015!

Results are as follows, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd listed as placed.

Section 1- Photography-Colour

Rural Youth/Agfest-	Ricky Edson, Andrea White
Waterscape-	Alicia Glatte, Nicole Elliott, Andrea White
Rural Scene-	Andrea White, Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson
Landscape-	Andrea White, Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson
Portrait-	Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson, Andrea White
Animal Study-	Andrea White, Ricky Edson, Alicia Glatte
Building Study-	Ricky Edson, Nicole Elliott
Floral/garden-	Nicole Elliott, Andrea White
Social Scene-	Nicole Elliott
Action Shot-	Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson, Andrea White

Rural Round Up Continued ...

Photography- Black and White

Rural Youth/Agfest-	Ricky Edson
Waterscape-	Ricky Edson
Landscape-	Andrea White, Ricky Edson, Alicia Glatte
Animal Study-	Andrea White
Building Study-	Andrea White, 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd !
Action Shot-	Ricky Edson

Placing's: Andrea White, Ricky Edson,, Alicia Glatte

Photography- Photoshopped

Animal Study-	Andrea White
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Placing: Andrea White

Section 2- Cooking

Cake supplied recipe-	Nicole Elliott
Packet Cake-	Nicole Elliott, Danielle Williams
Slice-	Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson
Decorated cupcakes-	Danielle Williams, Nicole Elliott

Placing's: Nicole Elliott, Danielle Williams, Ricky Edson

Section 3- Craft

Hand made craft-	Ricky Edson
Scrap booking 1 page-	Nicole Elliott

Placing's: Equal 1st Nicole and Ricky

Rural Round Up Continued ...

Section 4- Needlework/ patchwork

Counted cross stitch-	Nicole Elliott x2
Cushion-	Ricky Edson

Placing's: Nicole Elliott, Ricky Edson

Section 5- Handiwork

Woodwork-	Ricky Edson, Andrea White
Metal Work-	Ricky Edson
Pottery-	Ricky Edson

Placing's: Ricky Edson, Andrea White

Section 6- Just for Fun

Animal made from fruit/ vegetable-	Alicia Glatte, Ricky Edson, Nicole Elliott
Best packed lunch-	Ricky Edson

Placing's: Ricky Edson, Alicia Glatte, Nicole Elliott

Overall Winner: Nicole Elliott

Phillipa Green

Rural Round Up Director

Senior Vice President...

Our distinguished president, Simone, fellow rural youth members, past and life members. It is with the greatest pleasure I am writing to you in my second year as the Senior Vice President of the organisation, and what a great organisation we have!



2014 has seen many up's and down's and unfortunately, these come with anything in life. In my role and capacity as the Senior VP, I play a supportive but unseen role for Simone. I do this with great pride and prestige as it is with great respect I have been elected into this position for the last two years. This year has been a one of great learning where I was also elected as the Council Delegate to the Resource allocation committee where I was privileged enough to see some of the great inner workings and finance management of the organisation. We are so very privileged to have these great, experienced mentors who diligently give up their time to help out in our organisation.

These years has seen Simone and myself work more closely together in many facets. With assisting in general duties, filling in for speeches' in her absence, and being there as her representative in when she has been unable, has seen me take on a more hands on Senior VP role which has been fantastic. I suggest anyone who has a vested interest in holding a senior chair and executive position within the organisation to step up and put your hand up. It is the best way to learn more about what is going on. I hope that in the coming years, I can take on more duties and become even more educated about the organisation which I am so pleased and proud to be a part of. I hope the organisation continues to move forward in the leaps and bounds it has in 2014.

Lastly, but of course, not the least, a massive congratulations and thanks goes out to our glowing President Simone. You have yet again done a fantastic job at the helm of the ship that is Rural Youth, guiding us through life, captaining us through rough seas. I look forward to continuing to work with you; I not only speak for myself, but for the entirety of the organisation, thank you. You have done an outstanding and phenomenal job and you shouldn't be anything but proud of what you have achieved. Thank you Simone.

Prue Dennis

Sponsorship ...

The Rural Youth sponsors for 2014 were:

- Allgoods
- Australian Chainsaw Products
- Betta Milk
- Blackwoods
- BOC
- Polaris



In 2014, the Sponsorship and Promotions Committee was formed and is made up of the State President (Chair), Rural Youth Promotions Coordinator, Rural Youth Sponsorships Coordinator, Agfest Chair, Agfest Promotions Coordinator, Agfest Sponsorship Coordinator, Property Chair, State Administrator and RAC delegates.

The Committee held several meetings which provided some direction and structure in how sponsorship (and promotions) was to be set up moving forward for the Organisation as a whole rather than being dealt with by either Agfest or Rural Youth individually, which will allow greater benefits to the Organisation as a whole rather than sections of the Organisation.

The sponsorship package was reworked to make it easier to follow and has been sent to the designers to provide us with a professional printed looking package to begin signing up new sponsors.

Sponsorship in 2015 has a lot of potential to be able to sign up new sponsors and build relationships with businesses and continue to grow the support network of Rural Youth.

Simone Hayers
Sponsorship Coordinator

State Finance ...

2014 was my second year as State Finance Director, taking on this role for a second year was far less nerve racking after completing the role for the 12 months before, I was more confident and knew what the directorship involved.



I started off my year sending out letters to the new directors informing them of there budgets for the new Rural Youth year, congratulations to all Rural Youth Council directors we stayed under budget on most accounts, well done.

Later in the year Simone and I started work on the budget for 2015, thankyou to the directors who submitted a budget request. With both Simone and I having done the budgets last year we had it done in no time.

The role has been an eye opener over the last two years into how the organisation runs and gives you a much better understanding of how the financial system of Rural Youth operates.

Overall I have enjoyed my two years as finance director even if it was challenging at times but a very rewarding one at the same time, I offer my assistance to the 2015 finance director and hope you find the role as rewarding as I have.

Deyarna Bowen

State Finance Director

Study Tours ...

In 2014, Rural Youth Tasmania hosted seven international exchangees. Arriving from April onwards, staying for up to 12 weeks our agenda was full, accommodating and sharing the Tasmanian experience of adventures, activities and industry with our guests!



We welcomed Mirjam Peterhams from Switzerland for three months, Sannah Vast from Sweden for three months, Ingrid Jacobsen from Norway for three months, Lou-Ellen Warnock from Ireland for two months, Katie Pollock from United Kingdom for two months, Ingrid Schrall from Austria for three months, and Robert McKechnie from Scotland for two months.

Juggling seven exchangees proved interesting when trying to accommodate them, thank goodness we had Agfest to take a fortnight out of the 12 week schedule, and a great network of past members and financial members willing to host.

Thank you to the following people/families that hosted on behalf of Rural Youth Tasmania in 2014, your hospitality is much appreciated and without you, we wouldn't be able to provide this opportunity to our organisation, and sister-organisations in other parts of the world!

THANK YOU to Simone Hayers, Nicole Elliott, Bree House, Dale Hayers, Linda Cornelius, Noel Bevin, Angus Verhay, Melinda Hyland, Amanda Bayles, Ebony and Phil McConnon, Peter Damon, Will and Babette McConnon, Brett and Robin Mackenzie, Aleta Jones, Matthew and Ruth Young, Andrea White, Dave Shoobridge and Ali DeGraff, Nathan and Janine Richardson, Heidi Broun, Felicity Mason, Elizabeth Skirving and Roger Swain, Dave and Seona Findlay, Anna Lee, Robin Tait, Derek Hollander, Anthony Franklin, and David Dunn., and a huge thank you to the clubs and regions that organised activities for their members hosting exchangees.

Rural Youth Tasmania is full of opportunities, forming the foundation for many young Tasmanians launching into life and adventure. July covered just that with the exciting announcement of which members are recipients of Rural Youth Study Tours this weekend at the formal event for the year, Rural Youth State Ball.

On Saturday 5th July the selection day was held, members had to submit entry prior to this, along with a letter highlighting their study tour of choice, and why Rural Youth Tasmania should consider investing into the member and awarding them this opportunity

Study Tours Continued...

State Ball is a formal event, much like a leavers dinner, and just as exciting as one! The public normally see Rural Youth members in hi vis vest, jeans and boots at Agfest Field Days, for this event it means for many, a trip to the hairdresser for styling, dress shopping or planning for a few weeks, even months, and replacing those boots for heels! This year hosted at Bridport Resort, organised by the Northern Region Rural Youth members. Announced at this prestigious evening are those members that have been awarded Study Tours.

Study Tours available for 2014/15 selection are; Rotary Youth Leadership Camp held in Tasmania, Self-nominated Study Tour to partake in a training course, conference or experience that would benefit the member, sponsored by Betta Milk the Young Endeavour scholarship, which is open for members under the age of 23, and International study tours to United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway. The United Kingdom Study Tour is sponsored by Davies Brothers Limited.

Applicants; Prue Dennis 23yrs of Cressy, Alex White 20yrs of Richmond, Tobias TenBensel 20yrs of Howden, Richard Allwright, 22yrs of Nicholls Rivulet, and Andrea White, 16yrs of Melton Mowbray each went through the process of interviews, 40 question quiz based on knowledge of Rural Youth, Tasmania and general knowledge, demonstration to an audience (public speaking and presentation skills), report writing based on a tour of Boags Brewery. The Demonstrations, always an interesting part of this day for all, saw us watching a 10 minute presentation on knot tying, car racing, bull fighting with a barrel, equine nutrition and how to make a heat source for camping.

It is exciting to announce the 2014 Study Tours were awarded to;

United Kingdom

Prue Dennis

Young Endeavour

Richard Allwright & Tobias TenBensel

Self-nominated

Alex White (Mallahide Shearing School)

Rotary Youth Leadership Camp

Andrea White

Thank you to judges Cassandra Hall and Nathan Richardson.

Kate Coad

Study Tours Director



Top Teams...

So Top Teams has come and gone again, we had a fun day playing dress ups, decorating muffins and cooking pancakes!

We had three teams enter; Dorset, Central Highlands and Sorell in the running, with some great outfits for best dressed!



We started the day making highest pancake stack, decoration muffins and making a protective shell for the egg drop. We lost an egg before it left the crib room, there were some interesting pancake stacks, but they all got eaten afterwards so I guess we can cook or just did not get breakfast. We also had some lovely animal inspired muffins, cows, pigs and finding Nemo.

We have our quiz and lunch then we went to play in the sand for a sand sculpting challenge and the ag wear challenge. There was some lovely ag wear dresses, hand bags and bikinis.

The last part of the day was dropping our eggs off the tower and they all survived! Then for the few brave / crazy people we got to abseil down the tower a few times thanks to the Scouts for coming out helping us out! And the peanut gallery that watched and supported the crazy's coming down the tower!

In 1st place was Dorset, 2nd place was Sorell and 3rd was Central Highlands. Best Dressed went to Sorell

A BIG thank you to Ebony McConnon, Tracey Badcock and Alicia Glatte for judging could not have done it without you guys. Also thank you to Simone Hayers, Dale Hayers and Anthony Coad for your help.

Nicole Elliott

Top Teams Director

Young Farmer of the Year ...

Australian Chainsaw Products Young Farmer Competition 2014

Mid-July saw the start of the Young Farmer Competition with run offs held in each region, where there were 26 competitors taking part. They were each required to complete three modules supplied by me (the state co-ordinator) which each person around the state was doing, including a quiz, finance regarding a sheep feedlot and identification of kitchen and shed items, then each region was responsible to set a minimum of another three modules which could be a bit more hands on. Some of these included making custard or pikelets, knowledge of a shearing handpiece, cattle knowledge, identifying specifics on a tractor or a 4WD and more. This gave all 26 competitors a broad range of skill tests that would possibly be in the final.

Congratulations to the following who took part in the Young Farmer Run offs held on the 19th & 20th July 2014:

Andrea White	Angus Verhay	Babette McConnon
Brigid Worlton	Brodie Hill	Casey Jones
Dale Hayers	Ethan Williams	Keith Lee
Korey Stratton	Malcolm Campbell	Martin McConnon
Matthew Bayles	Meg Kluver-Jones	Mikey Pearson
Morgan Waters	Olivia Hoodless	Peter Damen
Phillipa Green	Prue Dennis	Richard Petrie
Ryan Lanley	Scott Coad	Tobias tenBensel
Tyson James	Will McConnon	

Young Farmer Continued ...

Next step was the State Finals held on the 13th of September for the top 15.

Congratulations to the following whom made it into the Young Farmer Competition Final.

Brighid Worldon

Casey Jones

Dale Hayers

Ethan Williams

Keith Lee

Malcolm Campbell

Martin McConnon

Matthew Bayles

Meg Kluver-Jones

Morgan Waters

Peter Damen

Phillipa Green

Prue Dennis

Richard Petrie

Will McConnon

On the day finalists were challenged with the following modules:

Fencing judged by Brook Pinner from TasTafe – module winner Keith Lee

Competitors were required to run out and strain up three wires and display a variety of straining methods

Finance – module winner Martin McConnon

Competitors were required to summarise a farms positions to see if they were able to afford to purchase another property to expand and explain some finance related terms

Young Farmer Continued...

Firearms supplied by Royce Woodward, Bracknell Gun Club –
module co-winners Dale Hayers & Ethan Williams

Competitors answered 30 multiple choice questions about firearms

First Aid judged by Sharron & Michael, St Johns First Aid –
module winner Phillipa Green

Competitors completed a short quiz on first aid and then were required to attend a mock accident scene and treat a patient until the ambulance arrived.

Home Economics – module winner Meg Kluver-Jones

Competitors were supplied with sponge cake and ingredients to make lamingtons

Media judged by Jan Davis, TFGA – module winner Prue Dennis

Competitors talked to Jan about recent media items in the Tas Country

Seeds judged by Rob Dent – module winner Richard Petrie

Competitors were required to identify a number of seeds and talk about the

Sheep & Wool – module co-winners Matthew Bayles & Prue Dennis

Competitors were required to identify a variety of fleeces and answer questions about sheep and wool history in Australia.

Tractor judged by Colin Berne & Rob Bayles, Tas Ploughing Association – module winner Matthew Bayles

Competitors were required to show driving techniques with a tractor and trailer, both forwards and backwards.

Young Farmer of the Year Comp Continued ...

The evening dinner was the formal part of the day with the top six being announced. Congratulations to North-West Region for putting on a top night.

Keith Lee

Martin McConnon

Meg Kluver-Jones

Prue Dennis

Richard Petrie

Will McConnon

The top six were then required to complete a quiz and perform a public speaking topic. Thanks to Wayne Johnston from the TFGA for supplying the quiz and for Ruth Paterson, Jane Dent & David Dunn for judging the public speaking

Quiz winner

Will McConnon

Public Speaking co - winners

Meg Kluver-Jones & Martin McConnon

This was now down to the final announcement of the winner of the 2014 Australian Chainsaw Products Young Farmer of the Year Competition and who would take home the major prize of a Polaris 'Ace' quad bike, and part of the \$25,000 prize pool.

A huge congratulations to the winners listed in order

1. Prue Dennis
2. Will McConnon
3. Meg Kluver-Jones
4. Martin McConnon
5. Richard Petrie
6. Keith Lee

Young Farmer of the Year Comp Continued ..

This saw the end of another fantastic Young Farmer Competition, with our naming rights sponsor Australian Chainsaw Products. Also sponsoring the competition was Blackwoods, BOC, Allgoods, Polaris and Tasweld. Without our wonderful sponsors the day would not be what it was.

Thank you to the wonderful people that helped me out along the way, lending equipment, collecting items, printing at the office, packing up, while you have not been mentioned by name or job your help in the lead up, on the day and packing up was very much appreciated.

Amanda Bayles

Young Farmer Coordinator



Website ...

The Rural Youth website for 2014 appeared to remain unchanged, with updates done where necessary to ensure that contact details were correct. Clubs were approached several times to ensure that the current details were correct etc.



In 2014 we worked on a new Rural Youth website, however we struggled with the company that designed this and the Agfest website to get this off the ground. A new Agfest website was later released with the help of Walker Designs.

The Rural Youth website is currently being worked on which will include interactive booking systems for Quercus Rural Youth Park and other features for members including the option to buy merchandise directly off the website etc.

This new website will create a fresh look for the organisation and allow it to be updated and ensure that it has current information on it and allow for what we hope has greater traffic flow and more promotional uses for Rural Youth.

In 2015, we look forward to launching our new look website to our members, the public and most importantly potential new members so stay tuned for this.

Simone Hayers

State Website Director

Dorset Rural Youth . . .

Well it's hard to believe the year is already over. This year has once again been fairly quiet; due to us only having a few members.

Dorset members were seen out and about at the following Rural Youth functions throughout the year: State Ball, Young Farmer Dinner, Young Farmer Competition, Top Teams Event, Tooms Lake Tumbler, Agfest Dinner, and Agfest itself as volunteers/committee members.

This year we entered a team in the Top team's competition, our team was named the BB1'S (Beards but 1) and consisted of myself, Alison, Cameron and Brodie. We had a great day and we came 1st.

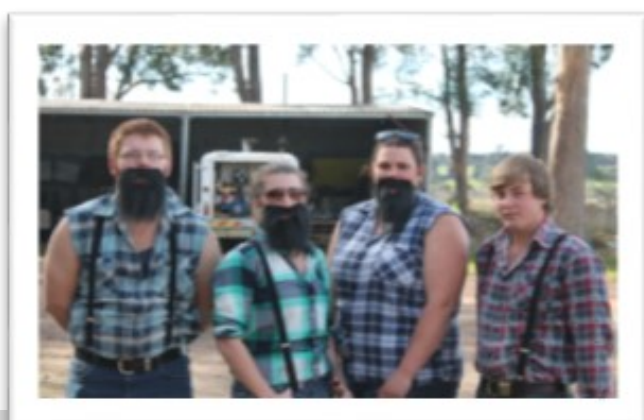
A huge congrats goes to Richo who entered in the Young Farmer Competition and in the end came 5th. This is one better than last year!

Once again we have helped the community out by donating money to Scottsdale Show Society to help with the running of our local show. Without community donations our local shows wouldn't be able to run.

A big thankyou goes to Brodie, Keran, Alison, Richard and Cameron for helping me out whenever it was needed and for stepping up to hold a position within the club for the 2014 year. Look forward to working with you all next year

Jessica-Rose Forsyth

Dorset Rural Youth President



Westmorland Rural Youth . . .

With 2014 coming to a close it's been another great year for Westmorland Rural Youth.

Our members have been heavily involved in the organisation in any way they can. Special mention must go to Prue Dennis for taking out 2014 Young Farmer of the Year, we are very proud of this great achievement you worked so hard for.

Agfest has once again been and gone with another successful year, it was great to see our members take on large positions within the committee. We look forward to Agfest 2015!

The Westmorland Ute completion was held at the Longford show once again, this is a great event that attracts local interest in our club. The running of this event would not have been possible without the dedication of our great team.

We would also like to wish Prue all the best for her study tour in 2015.

The 2014 Westmorland AGM was held in December at the Newstead Hotel, Thankyou too Elizabeth Skirving for being our Independent Chair.

Congratulations to the following people for being voted into the new positions.

Prue Dennis – President

Luke Reid - Vice President & treasurer

Maharla Farley – Secretary

Thankyou to the club for voting me in as your president in 2014 and supporting me to help make the club what it is today. A special thanks to Prue and Luke for all your help during the year when I have been absent.

All the best for 2015

Brad Lindsay

Westmorland President.

North-West Region . . .

Hey everyone,

2014 was a busy year for everyone in North West Region,.

We held our AGM In April, with Jake Williams being elected into President, Ryan Langley as Vice President and Daniele Williams for Secretary and Treasurer.

We then had a few fund raising events and also had the Rural Youth Young Farmer Dinner to organise in September. It all went with out a hitch with Prue Dennis winning the top prize.

Later on in the year North Motton had its annual Animal Nursery at the Ulverstone show, with having numerous raffles and activities to for the kids it was a great day out for everyone.

The end of the year has been quiet but plans are in the pipelines for 2015! We hope to see you at our meetings which are held on the last Thursday of every month.

Cheers

Jake Williams
North-West Region President

North Motton Rural Youth . . .

2014 was a rather busy year for North Motton, we started our year with the AGM which took place in December at the Kindred Hall. After a lot of debating I was elected as President for the second year running, Ethan Williams as Vice President and Brighid Worldon as Secretary and Treasurer.

We managed to round up six members and headed down to Fonthill in March to attend the State AGM, where our members met new people and had lots of fun.

It was now time for Young Farmer runs offs which were held on Chris Davis's farm in Smithton, we had four members attend the run offs, lots of fun was had by all members of North Motton and Circular Head Rural Youth. Out of our four members; Ryan Langley, Ethan Williams, Brighid Worldon and Korey Stratton. Brighid and Ethan made it through to the top 15 finalists.

They battled it out during the day doing all different modules of agriculture. Congratulations to Ethan and Brighid for making it to the top 15 in the state, and to Brighid for being awarded the encouragement award. That night we had fun getting dressed up and attending the dinner put together by the North West region.

Agfest was a huge success with six of our members all volunteering and taking on rolls that they haven't done before and putting up with the Tassie weather.

Throughout the year we had many barbeques and camping trips together, during winter we had a team building weekend at Blythe Park Scout Park in Burnie where we learnt to work as a team very quickly.

We also did a fundraising barbeque at Bunnings in Burnie which was a great success. During the year our members were seen all over the state attending the Tooms Lake Tumbler, shooting comps, Agfest dinner along with rodeos and shows.

North Motton Rural Youth Continued ...

October and November was very busy months getting ready for the animal nursery at the Ulverstone show with members organising animals and sponsors for the raffle. It was a great day with heaps of positive feedback and as a club we had heaps of fun.

2014 is coming to an end, as a club we attended a suicide awareness day at the Sheffield where we set up a stall and passes on information about Rural Youth.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the North West Region for all your support and to all North Motton members for a great year.

Ryan Langley

North Motton President

Southern Region ...

2014 proved to be a very quiet year for the Southern Region. Only a handful of meetings were needed and ran.

The biggest excitement for the Region this year was that of the re-introduction of the Central Highlands Club. This group of passionate young members showed us exactly what being a member of Rural Youth is all about, with their hard work to fundraise and passion to attend not only region events, but State functions enthusing all those around them. A really big congratulation must go to Andrea White, Anthony Franklin and the whole team on their efforts in 2014.

The Southern Region Bowling Comp was again the biggest event, with Kingborough Huon with an average score of 90.46 taking out the competition against Central Highlands who had an average of 72.25 to take home the glory for 2014. The highest individual scores went to Tobias TenBensel (KH RY) with 117 in game one and Mikey Pearson (KH RY) with 128 in game two. Tobias also took out the highest individual average of 112 and we also saw during the evening the fastest bowl speed of 40.9km/hr bowled which was bowled by two members Alex White (KH RY) and Anthony Franklin (CHRY)



Southern Region Continued...

In 2014, Southern Region organised the Rural Youth AGM at Fonthill at Lemont. This year's AGM was a little more relaxed compared to other years with the meeting being held on the Sunday and fun social activities being held on Saturday afternoon/evening. Other social events which Southern Region members participated in saw dinner meetings and a night of laser skirmish and Zone 3 in Hobart.

Southern Region also had a busy time around Agfest with many members heading up for a day, week or even multiple weeks in some cases. Around the same time, the group of exchanges were hosted around the South, with many members putting time into showing the group of internationals around all the highlights of the South. Memorable locations included Bruny Island, Salamanca Market and MONA.

A big thanks to everyone who helped Southern Region in any shape and form in 2014, whether it was through coming to a meeting, helping organise the Rural Youth AGM at Fonthill, hosting an exchange person or attending Agfest.

Dale Hayers

Southern Region President

Central Highlands Rural Youth ...

Central Highlands Rural Youth re opened in 2014, during the past six months the club has been busy within the community and surrounding areas fundraising money and getting the club up and running the central highlands covers the areas from the great lake, Miena, Bronte, Derwent bridge, Wayatinah, Tarraleah Ouse Ellendale Fentonbury Hamilton & Bothwell.

During the year the club has been very active in the community by attending many events such as the Bothwell Highlands Bush Fest, Ouse Craft Fair, Rural Youth Shooting Competition at Bracknell, Young Farmer and Top Teams at Quercus, Southern Region Bowling Competition, Ellendale Farmer's Market, Brighton Ute Competition as well as bagging up sheep manure, selling and running fortnightly meat trays and a Christmas raffle.

Central Highlands Rural Youth is looking forward to the busy year ahead as we are joining forces with Rural Alive & Well running a "lift the lid" program which involves our members lending a helping hand one day a month In the central highlands area to those who are struggling or in need as well as hosting an information session at two venues in the area for farmers and businesses in the agricultural industry which will be an information session covering everything from depression, farming, business administration, prostate and breast cancer as well as bush watch and having an information session on rural youth and what it's about.



Central Highlands Rural Youth Continued ..

The club is also looking at starting a program with two of the local schools and joining their agricultural program for one afternoon a month, our members will also be giving a talk at two local assemblies on what rural youth is about and how the youth of the central highlands can and are making a difference in the local communities.

We are also looking forward to running the Hamilton show Ute Competition and dog high jump in March as well as volunteering our members for parking at the Bushy Park show in February.

On behalf of Central Highlands Rural Youth Club I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for 2014 and the wonderful staff at head office and everyone involved in getting our club back up and running and for the many opportunities this has and will create for the youth of Central Highlands and thank you for all your support during the past year.

Emma Rayner

Secretary Central Highlands Rural Youth

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth . . .

Another year has flown by, with good times had though out. We have seen two of our members get engaged and then married (it was a great wedding and party), some of our members spent the year Buying their First Homes, Building Decks, Going on Holidays, Buying Blocks and getting great Uni results!! But enough about us, this is a brief on our year at KH...

We started the year with members attending social functions such as rodeos, our Annual General Meeting and one of our members Andrea Craigie leaving us to go chase cattle, getting ute's stuck and learning lots on a big station in Western Australia.

2014 was also a year that saw another one of our members Owen Woolley heading off on exchange to Canada, he loved it so much that he stayed on to work and plans to go back again in 2015.

We headed to State AGM and which saw lots of our member's up at Font Hill (near Lemont) for an enjoyable weekend with our own member Simone Hayers taking on State President role for another 12 months! (And has done a great job).

Agfest snuck up on us like it always does. KH had many members up there for few weeks to just a few days. Our members took on roles from Water Cart (Caelum Wood), Personnel (Simone Hayers), Bree House and Victoria Percival running a great Equine area, Dale Hayers and Kaysie Wood in the Rural Youth Feature Tent, Car Parkers, Catering (Nicole Elliott) through to Vice Chair (Katie Coad).

We had a small group of us travel to sunny Bridport for State Ball, Kaysie's parents hosted a house full of KH members, who were trying to tan in the shed, enjoying drinks on the deck and taking up all living room space as well as baby sitting the three grandkids! We all had a nice night at the ball, with a few kicking on to the pub after.

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth Cont:...

At State Ball we were lucky enough to congratulate our clubs Study Tour winners for the year – Richard Allwright – Young Endeavour, Tobias TenBensel – Young Endeavour and Alex White – Self Nominated Study Tour.

September saw the Young farmer Competition, well done to Meg Kluver Jones and Dale Hayers for getting into the finals. We are very proud of Meg for coming third overall! Well done again guys! We had members run the Top Teams event during the day, and members enter the Rural Roundup Competition.

In November, we had the Huon Show, which we did a lot of work to the animal nursery which was long over due. We did new base, fencing and painted the whole building. It really does look great now! THANK YOU to everyone that put in some work down there, was really great to see it done. Its amazing what a little bit of team work can do.

Our final social event for 2014 was Tooms Lake Tumbler which few of our members organised and helped out with. It was a fun night with a great band and a bonus was that it didn't snow this year!!

I would just like to say a HUGE thank you to all that helped me out this year during my role as Club President, with my endless questions which have helped me learn a lot. I think we have a great club and I'm sure we will have another great year, see you round in 2015!

Nicole Elliott

Kingborough Huon President

Sorell Rural Youth . . .

Sorell Rural Youth has a good year in 2014. Sarah Birch was elected as president, Isabella Scott as vice president, Phillipa Green as Treasurer and Simon D'Alton as secretary. The year saw the club coming together for a fun and games throughout the year with many different and varied meeting locations.

Fundraising was undertaken with chocolates being a big hit among members. Sorell was present at the Sorell School Colour run, with a fun and colour time had by members.

The membership base for Sorell Rural Youth increased on previous years, with a solid turn out for many Rural Youth events such as Agfest, Young Farmer Dinner and Top Teams. The Top Teams competition saw the Sorell team take out second place with a fun filled day enjoyed by the team. Phillipa Green made it through to the top 15 in the Young Farmer competition, and winning the First-Aid component of the Young farmer competition. The Young farmer Dinner was enjoyed by the club, as we had nearly all members present!

Thanks must go to Kate Coad for her help and support of the club throughout the year.

Phillipa Green

Sorell Rural Youth Member



Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association ...

Since beginning as an Association affiliated with the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania in 2011, we have drawn up guidelines, held several social events and reunions.

Past members have also and volunteered at the request of Rural Youth or Agfest Committee. The Association has served the purpose of bringing past members together to enjoy each other's company and to make new acquaintances. A highlight was when in 2012, we hosted the National Exchangees Association Bi-Annual Conference.

In our first year we had 89 financial members and this grew in the following year. But by 2014 numbers had dropped to 78 members and currently to date there are 40 registrations. There are several issues which have had to be considered:

- ♦ The main issue is to re-sign members each year, particularly when there is low level activity.
- ♦ The quarterly newsletter ceased owing to lack of a member able to put the hours and knowledge into a regular publication and financial constraints as our only funding is from membership fees supplemented by limited in-kind hours from the Rural Youth office staff. It was never the intention to hold major events or fundraise as this was not the aim or objective of our Association.
- ♦ We appreciated the support given by Rural Youth and office staff. This support was not available to us during their peak busy periods, which is understandable. This meant our office bearers dealt with the administration on a completely voluntary basis, so it needed to be rationalised.
- ♦ Ensuring that past members are an asset and resource for Rural Youth and Agfest if requested, and not trying or been seen to be trying to control or take over the Rural Youth Organisation.

Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association . . .

During 2014 our only event was a successful gathering at Agfest and some members volunteered to provide “manpower” during the event.

When the Association was first set up, the Committee consisted of a State Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, two members from each of the three regions of the State and a Newsletter Editor. Sustaining and active committee structure proved problematic.

Part way through 2014 Inaugural State Convenor, Elizabeth Skirving resigned due to personal reasons and the Association limped along until our Annual Meeting in July 2014. At that meeting, which included 11 members of State Advisory Committee, all issues were fully discussed and everyone present was asked for their opinion on the future of the Association and how it could be streamlined and more manageable.

The following was agreed upon:

- ♦ Regional committees be abolished
- ♦ A “leaner” structure for Committee was required
- ♦ Guidelines be redrafted to reflect changes
- ♦ Members need to feel they are getting value for membership fee paid
- ♦ Contact should be by electronic media where possible
- ♦ Have one good function annually
- ♦ A life time membership fee be introduced
- ♦ Agfest is still a good place to meet up but not everyone can attend as they are either not present or involved with other stands at the field days.
- ♦ The Exchangees Association petered out some years ago and previous members could be invited to join us.
- ♦ The name “Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association” has been a definite barrier to people joining, particularly younger persons as they did not want to be known as “past it”!

Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association Continued...

- ♦ Important to remain a vehicle for networking only and not to take on any other role.
- ♦ The Rural Youth State Advisory Committee is there to mentor and support the RY Organisation.
- ♦ Linking an event to a rural charity may be a way of encouraging more people to attend a state wide event.
- ♦ The benefits of the Association need to be more clearly promoted and expanded.
- ♦ The Rural Youth Organisation may like to invite our members to attend some of their functions e.g. State Ball.
- ♦ TA lack of progress on the RY History Book has disappointed many past members who put much time and effort into this and have not yet seen a result.
- ♦ The Far North West Region has it's own separate strong Junior Farmers Reunion group and has no intention of joining with us. (101 people attended their last dinner.)
- ♦ There are quite a few people who are past members of interstate RY Organisations now living in Tasmania who would join if they knew about our Organisation. (One ex-WA person present at meeting gave this opinion.)

The meeting agreed that an Executive of three – State Convenor; Secretary and Treasurer would head up the Association and appoint sub committees during the year to assist with organising and running events as required.

Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association Continued . . .

Office Bearers elected for July 2014-2015:

State Convenor – Carol Axton-Thompson (Rural Youth Life & Service member, Rural Youth State President 1979 & 1980, past exchange to NZ, previous Secretary of Association, Past ACRY Vice President, inaugural Agfest Committee)

Secretary – Judy McLean (Rural Youth Service Awardee, who would carry out duties in a voluntary capacity and not impinge on her role as p/t State Administrator) – now retired from Rural Youth.

Treasurer – Michael Gordon (previous Treasurer; Rural Youth Service Awardee, Past Rural Youth State President – 1984; past exchange to SA, past ACRY Vice-President 1987/88, ACRY National President 1987-1989)

The Executive has had several meetings to propose new Guidelines, structure for fees, propose a major function for 2015, membership drive, formulate a promotional strategy, revamp title and logo, revise membership application form and fee and update Association information for History Book.

Outcome of restructure:

- ♦ The name of the Association be changed from “Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association”. Approx 12 suggestions were put forward but the one agreed upon was “**Rural-Ex Tasmania**”. This change of name is intended to refocus on the word ‘rural’ to be more inclusive of people wishing to join as per the guidelines which include past staff, past Agfest Committee persons who were not necessarily Rural Youth members and other rural organisations. The ‘ex’ to focus on past exchangees (from any origin) and members who had retired from Rural Youth. A new logo be sought to reflect the change.
- ♦ A brochure/membership application form be produced.
- ♦ A once off Lifetime Membership fee be established on joining. In 2015 this fee to be set at \$50.00 and a person will remain a member unless they advise us otherwise, or their membership is terminated by the Committee.

Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association Continued...

- ♦ A major function be planned for 2015 to rejuvenate the Association. This function to have a specific point of interest and be held at a place and time to suit as many people as possible.
- ♦ A letter and communication to be sent to RY State President and Council to advise of the restructure.
- ♦ A letter to be sent out to existing members and potential members to advise of these changes. Guidelines to be available when completed.

Summary

A letter and emails were sent to the Rural Youth office outlining the changes but unfortunately due to timing issues, these changes were not approved by Rural Youth Council prior to their implementation. It was not intended to offend or “go over the heads” of Rural Youth Council, which was the perception and this is sincerely regretted. It is our aim to retain an amicable and mutually beneficial relationship with Rural Youth and so the Association’s Executive will request a meeting to discuss all issues with the new office bearers of Rural Youth following their upcoming AGM to find a way forward. It remains the firm opinion of our members that changes as outlined above are necessary in order for our Association to remain a viable entity.

Carol Axton-Thompson

State Convenor

Rural Business Tasmania ...

Since its founding by the Rural Youth organisation in 1986, Rural Business Tasmania Inc. has grown and evolved to become one of the key primary support services for businesses in rural and regional Tasmania.

VISION: A sustainable and prosperous future for rural and regional Tasmania

MISSION: To develop and deliver services and projects that foster viable and sustainable economic development within Tasmania's rural and regional communities.

Through the provision of financial and business expertise, and administration support services, Rural Business Tasmania's key objective is to help rural families, business, and the community manage the ever evolving demands and challenges facing the primary industry sector.

Rural Business Tasmania programs include:

Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania

Supported by the Federal and State Governments, Rural Business Tasmania's flagship service provides confidential and independent assistance to primary producers, fishermen and small rural businesses that are suffering financial hardship, and that have no alternative sources of impartial support, to manage the challenges of change and adjustment.

Rural Relief Fund of Tasmania

Established as a Deductible Gift Recipient, the Fund, during fiscally challenging periods - ordinarily times of drought, bushfire and flood - accepts tax deductible donations, and distributes them to impacted farming families and their communities. The Fund gratefully receives generous and ongoing in-kind and financial support from the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania whose contribution to date constitutes a majority of funds raised for the benefit of Tasmanian rural communities.

Rural Business Tasmania Continued ...

Rural Business Admin Services

This service primarily offers book keeping and business administration to individuals and businesses that either do not have the time, resources and/or expertise to efficiently and effectively manage this essential business function.

Financial Support Services

Financial Support Services assists families and businesses to better understand their financial position. It offers assistance in budgets and cash flow forecasts preparation and, if deemed necessary, with loan and/or re-finance applications. The service also as required provides highly valued impartial support and mediation including negotiation with creditors and financial institutions.

Rural Business Tasmania recognises that small business is the backbone of the Tasmanian economy and that primary industry and agricultural enterprises comprise the largest sub-sector of small businesses in the State. Providing access to affordable practical support to that sub-sector is critical to ensuring its future sustainability and prosperity, and it is this area in particular that remains the focus of the organisation.

State and Federal Government funding support of Rural Business Tasmania's flagship program, Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania, is now supplemented by fee based services – a business model that seeks to ensure the organisations sustainability.

Working in conjunction with a stable of experienced and talented professionals, Rural Business Tasmania's growth, from a holistic community provider to the trusted professional service provider it has now become, has facilitated real and positive change for individuals and communities – something the organisation is most proud of.

Moving forward Rural Business Tasmania is committed to continuing to deliver a high quality financial and administration support service to the people of Tasmania. It also looks to expanding its service provision by offering broader support to those seeking to increase sustainability and competitive advantage by diversifying their business in to new and financially sound areas.

Rural Business Tasmania Continued ...

The year in review

After much planning and following 2011's strategic review and its ongoing implementation, the past 12 months at Rural Business Tasmania have been a hive of activity and accomplishments. After all the hard work it is pleasing to see the new vision finally starting to come to fruition.

Operationally Rural Business Tasmania has commenced a transformation of sorts expanding the scope of its charter from holistic financial support service provider to one offering a suite of financial and administrative services that in time seek to better support not only its traditional client base but also rural and regional SMEs throughout the State.

Marketing and Business Development:

In 2013/14 we undertook extensive work in raising the profile of the organisation within Tasmania's rural and regional community, with key stakeholders including State and Federal government departments and agencies, and relevant key service providers.

This effort included regular meetings with Ministers and department representatives, attendance at meetings, contribution to and preparation of industry updates, information sharing, and hosting of a quarterly Forum of Rural Stakeholders with representatives from all key Tasmanian rural and regional service providers and government all attending.

Interviews were undertaken on ABC Radio and TV. Together with paid advertisements we also had a number of editorials in Tasmanian Country, The Examiner and The Advocate newspapers.

Rural Business Tasmania Continued ...

Partnering other service providers Rural Business Tasmania again hosted a stand at the annual Agfest field days.

With a new and designated marketing and business development resource, we look forward to ramping up that important aspect of the business.

Business Management:

As the organisation starts expanding in to new service areas the management of each of the services has required careful balancing. The Board and Executive Management are very cognisant of the desire and need to ensure Rural Business Tasmania's flagship program, Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS), remains at the core of all decisions, and that any ancillary services are complementary to it.

The team providing RFCS is well practiced in the specialised case management delivery of Rural Business Tasmania's no-advice model. Compliance with grant conditions and high-level performance based KPI benchmarks ensure that clients remain the first priority.

Due to time constraints and resource availability managing an extended and geographically dispersed team, and the introduction of new programs and the opportunities that they create, remains a challenge. To fully maximize Rural Business Tasmania's new reach, resources, and new business development opportunities, and in the interest of retaining expertise, support and reporting capabilities, the organisation has reviewed and streamlined core competencies particularly with regards to human resources, financial management, marketing, IT, and business development – changes and modifications that have greatly enhanced work output and efficiency.

Rural Business Tasmania Continued ...

Financial Management:

Leading in to 2013/14, the austere and fiscally challenged reality of organisational operational spending lead to a level of frugality never before seen. This, thankfully, was greatly transformed through the successful securing of Australian Government Farm Finance Package.

In addition Rural Business Tasmania has been able to secure funding for projects, and have subsequently utilised reserves to fund business development. With an improved financial position, in the next 12 months the organisation anticipates increased spending as non-critical initiatives previously put on hold are now able to be actioned.

In acknowledging grateful receipt of business critical Federal and State Government grants as our main source of revenue, fittingly here Rural Business Tasmania acknowledges its founding body, Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, for their generous ongoing cash and in-kind support, without which the service delivery to Tasmania's rural and regional communities would be greatly compromised.

Rural Business Tasmania

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