



# Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc.

Annual Report 2015



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# Rural Youth Positions

Patron:	Mrs Kate Warner
State President	Miss Prue Dennis
Senior Vice President	Mr Ricky Edson
Junior Vice President	Miss Phillipa Green
Immediate Past President	Miss Simone Hayers

## Life Members

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)	Mrs Carol Axton (North Motton)
Mr T.B. Stancombe - dec	Mr John Dent (Hagley)
Mr Don Walker (Hagley)	Mr Noel Beven (Sorell)
Mr C.A. Holland - dec	Mr Wesley Hazell (Kingborough-Huon)
Mr Darryl Barker (West Pine)	Mr Chris Williams (North Motton)
Mr D. Bennett -dec	Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons (West Tamar)
Mr Henry Burbury (Oatlands)	Mr Peter Gladwell (Sisters Creek)
Mr E.C. Mackay - dec	Mr Dale Badcock (Hagley)
Mr Keith Topfer - dec	Mr Richard Colman (Sorell)
Mr Graeme Tole – dec (Westmorland)	Ms Elizabeth Skirving (Westmorland)
Mr David Dunn (Evandale, renamed North Esk)	

## Rural Youth Office Staff

General Manager	Karen Robinson
Finance Administrator	Linda Perkins
Administration Officer	Selena Flanagan
Administration Assistant	Kadesha Bishop

# Rural Youth Councillors

## **Northern Region**

Laura Smith  
Alicia Glatte

## **North West Region**

Ethan Williams  
Jake Williams  
Ryan Langley  
Danielle Williams  
Korey Stratton

## **Southern Region**

Alex White  
Dale Hayers  
Emma Rayner  
Samantha Larder  
Kaysie Wood

# Directors

<b>Agriculture:</b>	Kate Coad, Kaysie Wood, Prue Dennis
<b>Competitions:</b>	Prue Dennis
<b>Functions:</b>	Kate Coad, Kaysie Wood, Prue Dennis
<b>Finance:</b>	Simone Hayers
<b>Leadership &amp; Training</b>	Ricky Edson
<b>LINK &amp; Policy:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Merchandise:</b>	Simone Hayers
<b>Newsletter &amp;</b>	Phillipa Green
<b>Annual Report:</b>	
<b>Promotion:</b>	Dale Hayers
<b>Roundup:</b>	Simone Hayers
<b>Rural Youth</b>	
<b>Feature Tent:</b>	Kaysie Wood
<b>Safety:</b>	Simone Hayers
<b>Sponsorship &amp; Grants:</b>	Amanda Bayles
<b>Study Tours:</b>	Kate Coad, Kaysie Wood
<b>Top Teams:</b>	Emma Rayner
<b>Website:</b>	Simone Hayers
<b>Young Farmer:</b>	Amanda Bayles, Prue Dennis

# Audit Report

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

## Committee List

31 December 2015

Christian Name	Surname	Address 1	Suburb	State	Postcode	Official Position
Carol	Archer-Thompson	4 Wenta Crescent	Wendatza	TAS	7310	
Dale	Blackcock	PO Box 59	Wedbary	TAS	7932	
Darryl	Gurber	PO Box 148	Penguin	TAS	7316	
Amanda	Reyes	136 Wellington Street	Langford	TAS	7381	
Mitchell	Brier	10 Danks Road	Okevoine	Tas	7594	
Nael	Brown	PO Box 90	Campsea	TAS	7026	
Austin	Brintell	124 Low Street	Launceston	Tas	7250	
Henry	Burbury	34 Channonay Drive	Berridale	TAS	7051	
Katie-Sue	Coof	1 Menzies Road	Wagga	TAS	7054	
Richard	Colman	45 Wellwood Street	Jerush Valley	TAS	7088	
Peter	Garner	15 Graingers Road	Kidneth	Tas	7350	
Free	Demuth	1/2 8, 3/ 6 Ovale Close	Cambridge	Tas	7170	State President
Joan	Deer	57 Bathurst Road	Trusville	TAS	7150	
David	Deen	12 Quary Road	Launceston	TAS	7250	
Picky	Edson	3 Omlene Street	George Town	Tas	7253	Senior Vice President
Peter	Gardwell	PO Box 286	Somerset	TAS	7322	
Alicia	Glebe	3 Omlene Street	George Town	Tas	7253	
Phillipa	Green	245 Tans Drive	Acton Park	TAS	7170	Junior Vice President
Dale	Hayers	57 Jacara Road	Wagga	Tas	7054	
Simone	Hayers	57 Jacara Road	Wagga	Tas	7054	Treasurer
Wesley	Hazell	PO Box 1670 ESOC	Mornington	TAS	7008	
Phyllis	Lenghe	134 Payers Road	North Merton	Tas	7336	
Samantha	Lander	1638 Ellendale Road	Duke	Tas	7140	
Sherry	McCauley	"Cannara" 680 Stonor Road	Greene	TAS	7129	
Emma	Rayner	PO Box 144	New Norfolk	TAS	7140	
Elizabeth	Skinner	1 Forest Road	Trusville	TAS	7150	
Lucia	Smith	4 Bonbulla Court	Rockville	TAS	7248	
Skaron	Symons	19 Partridge Drive	Legana	TAS	7177	
Dan	Wooler	PO Box 119	Camick	Tas	7382	
Alan	White	106 Rangula Street	Launceston	Tas	7201	
Chris	Williams	9 Spellman's Road	Upper Centre	TAS	7515	
Caroline	Williams	PO Box 149	Ulvenstone	Tas	7515	
Chloe	Williams	475 Preston Road	North Merton	Tas	7336	
Jake	Williams	PO Box 149	Ulvenstone	Tas	7515	
Kennie	Wood	1/57 Raptee Street	Egmont	Tas	7056	
Grigori	Woodson	139 Faber Road	Rams	Tas	7538	

I confirm that the above list is a true record of the the committee members of the association holding office during the financial year.

Synectic Audit &amp; Assurance Pty Ltd

  
Benjamin Coull  
Director

Date 3 February 2016

## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement of Profit or Loss**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue - Rural Youth</b>		
Interest received	13,619	22,593
Provision of services	4,301	5,085
Sponsorship	19,500	12,000
Government funding	16,000	-
Other income	2,564	11,095
	<u>49,984</u>	<u>50,773</u>
<b>Expenses - Rural Youth</b>		
Administration	75,478	47,082
Study, education, leadership and training	13,808	16,331
Member expenses	3,598	15,093
Honorariums	14,016	10,422
Awards and sponsorships	24,060	13,846
Sundry expenses	17,053	12,982
	<u>148,013</u>	<u>115,756</u>
<b>Net Result - Rural Youth</b>	<u>(98,029)</u>	<u>(64,983)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement of Profit or Loss**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue - Agfest</b>		
Entrance fees	627,629	595,832
Site fees	498,604	496,325
Sponsorship	59,800	70,261
Government funding	10,500	-
Other income	45,835	12,933
	<b>1,242,568</b>	<b>1,175,351</b>
<b>Expenses - Agfest</b>		
Administration	43,177	34,335
Advertising and promotion	50,771	53,651
Conferences	23,460	545
Catering	34,337	31,886
Depreciation	9,216	7,386
Insurance	27,730	18,615
Waste management	63,228	64,796
Security	37,596	36,175
Site expenses	63,486	42,775
Trade expo expenses	25,171	25,365
Sponsorship	30,406	39,322
Honorariums	22,253	20,428
Donations	7,038	6,935
Sundry expenses	57,879	66,515
Traffic management	13,438	11,720
Loading and lifting	26,388	24,097
Electricity and gas	16,485	7,627
Communication	21,935	24,320
Travel and transportation costs	27,045	33,456
Expo and demonstration costs	15,895	25,421
	<b>616,964</b>	<b>575,372</b>
<b>Net Result - Agfest</b>	<b>625,604</b>	<b>599,979</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement of Profit or Loss**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue - Property Management</b>		
Rent and lease income	20,066	27,866
Sundry income	58,231	19,674
	<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,540</u>
<b>Expenses - Property Management</b>		
Depreciation	37,926	40,076
Employment expenses	289,643	295,028
Insurance	23,031	9,886
Energy	38,233	29,496
Honorariums	2,267	5,042
Repairs, maintenance, upgrades and other equipment expenses	104,793	117,505
Sponsorship	9,253	9,326
Administration	61,126	48,253
Rates, taxes and security	17,084	16,748
Sundry expenses	12,646	3,388
	<u>596,996</u>	<u>574,748</u>
<b>Net Result - Property Management</b>	<u>(518,699)</u>	<u>(527,208)</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<u>8,876</u>	<u>7,788</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement of Financial Position**

As at 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	446,894	440,110
Trade and other receivables	3	15,286	9,730
Inventories	4	6,471	6,834
Prepayments		16,311	18,711
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>484,962</b>	<b>475,185</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	1,661,847	1,670,678
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,661,847</b>	<b>1,670,678</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,146,809</b>	<b>2,145,863</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	43,485	42,051
Provisions	7	26,107	45,481
Grants received in advance		16,000	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>79,602</b>	<b>87,532</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>79,602</b>	<b>87,532</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,067,207</b>	<b>2,058,331</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	8	314,016	314,016
Accumulated funds		1,753,191	1,744,315
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>2,067,207</b>	<b>2,058,331</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

**2015**

	Accumulated Funds	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2015	1,744,315	314,016	2,058,331
Surplus/(deficit) for year	8,876	-	8,876
Balance at 31 December 2015	1,753,191	314,016	2,067,207

**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

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

### 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).

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably. When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

#### (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.

## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

**1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies continued****(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.

**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.

**2 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash on hand	300	300
Cash at bank	446,594	439,810
	<u>446,894</u>	<u>440,110</u>

**3 Trade and other receivables**

Trade debtors	8,027	2,510
Accrued income	429	5,575
GST receivable	6,830	1,645
	<u>15,286</u>	<u>9,730</u>

**4 Inventories**

At cost:		
Stock on hand - Rural Youth	1,065	1,736
Stock on hand - Agfest	3,457	3,260
Stock on hand - Other	2,069	1,638
	<u>6,471</u>	<u>6,634</u>

## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>5 Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Land and Buildings		
York Street Property - at independent valuation (1999)	225,000	225,000
Meeting Hall and Sheds - at cost	805,705	805,705
Quercus property - at independent valuation (1995)	450,000	450,000
Land adjoining Quercus property - at cost	31,500	31,500
Less: accumulated depreciation	(285,649)	(285,535)
	<u>1,226,556</u>	<u>1,246,670</u>
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	244,779	218,425
Less: accumulated depreciation	(209,783)	(194,651)
	<u>34,996</u>	<u>23,774</u>
Other assets		
At cost	494,266	482,314
Less: accumulated depreciation	(93,979)	(82,080)
	<u>400,286</u>	<u>400,234</u>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment:</b>	<u><b>1,661,848</b></u>	<u><b>1,670,678</b></u>

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.Y.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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 31 December 2015</b>				
Balance at the beginning of year	1,246,670	23,774	400,234	1,670,678
Additions	-	26,354	11,953	40,307
Depreciation expense	(28,114)	(17,132)	(11,891)	(49,137)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<u><b>1,226,556</b></u>	<u><b>34,996</b></u>	<u><b>400,286</b></u>	<u><b>1,661,848</b></u>

## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>6 Trade and other payables</b>		
Other payables	-	2,288
Credit card	2,658	1,635
Bonds and trust funds held	11,830	8,100
Superannuation payable	3,998	5,780
PAYG payable	6,097	-
Trade creditors	15,450	24,251
	<u>40,033</u>	<u>42,051</u>
<b>7 Employee Benefits</b>		
Current liabilities		
Provision for annual leave	10,008	11,189
Provision for time in lieu	3,289	2,109
Provision for long service leave	12,810	32,173
	<u>26,107</u>	<u>45,481</u>
<b>8 Reserves</b>		
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 2015 the number of members was 164 (2014 - 177).

Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

**Statement by Members of the Committee**

The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 10:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

State President.....  
Prue Dennis

8/2/16

Finance Administrator.....  
Linda Perkins

Dated 8/2/16

To the members of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

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 2015, 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.

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 Incorporation 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.

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.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.





#### 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 2015, 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 2015; 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 Cull  
Director

Date: 3 February 2016

## State President

Let's just take a small step back in time, when I took on the role of State President back in February 2015, I was unsure of what I was getting myself into. A mix of excitement, nerves, and joy most definitely overcame me that weekend. At this stage I was still working full time in the North of the State and had plans to go overseas on my exchange for 6 weeks also. Saying I was unsure how this would all work together at this stage was definitely an understatement. Then to be moved to the other end of the state mid-way through the year, it then became chaos. Having a supportive council around me helped me through the year.

Right from the beginning of taking on the role of State President, it became a considerable learning curve for me. I had been in the Senior Vice position the year prior and had helped Simone with some things, but in the first few months I learnt a considerable amount. People asked questions that sometimes, I couldn't answer to the best of my ability, or historically, I knew nothing about. Sometimes this entailed going to those who could best help me and to get the right answer.

First cab off the rank for me as the new State President was finding directors to fill the many roles of directorships on state council. I would like to quickly say thank you to those who filled those roles, you have been a great help and I appreciate all that you have done over the last 12 months.

With this opportunity I would like to thank the councillors of 2015/2016 who were: Phillipa Green, Ricky Edson, Simone Hayers, Kate Coad, Kaysie Wood, Dale Hayers, Alex White, Emma Rayner, Sam Larder, Laura Smith, Amanda Bayles, Austin Britnell, Alicia Glatte, Mitch Beer, Jake Williams, Danielle Williams, Ryan Langley, Brigid Worlton, Ethan Williams, Corey Stratton, Peter Damen, Ebony McConnon, and William Craigie.

Out of the above following, made up the State Executive team, they were Simone Hayers, Phillipa Green, Ricky Edson, Dale Hayers, Kaysie Wood, Emma Rayner and Jake Williams. These dedicated people always made themselves available when I needed help answering questions whether it be on the phone for a link up or on the emails, I thank you for your hard work.

### **The Rural Youth Council Committee for 2015/2016 was as listed below:**

**Finance Director** Initially the role of finance director was taken on by Kate Coad, past State President and fantastic mentor for myself and others on council. About midway through the year, Kate became the Agfest Chairperson, and with the immense work load that required, and the work load Kate already had, she stepped down from the position to where Simone Hayers, the immediate Past President, stepped into the role and has been a fantastic source of knowledge, information and support. Thank you Simone for all your work you have done with Finance this year, and your continuing work.

**Agriculture** A conjoined role taken on by Kate Coad, Kaysie Wood and myself, with an Ag Tour day organised early in 2016, we visited a couple of working operations in the northern midlands where our members learned more about the systems and enterprises we visited.

**Competitions** A role held over by myself again this year, saw the running of the shooting competition, commendation of clubs with club prizes, and the awarding of member prizes at State Ball. A full comprehensive report can be seen in the competitions report.

**Leadership & Training** A role taken on by Ricky Edson, our Senior Vice President, took on the role and hit the ground running. Over the duration of the year Ricky organised an ATV course which has great member involvement with a forklift course that was planned but had to be postponed. Ricky has great plans for the future of training and we can't wait to help him implement them. Thanks for your hard work over 2015 Ricky, it hasn't gone unnoticed.

**Promotions** Dale Hayers took on the role of promotions for council in 2015. Dale has been a great asset in the role of promotions over 2015. Whenever a press release was needed Dale was there, making sure that the news got out when it needed to. Thank you for your hard efforts Dale you are an asset to the organization.

**Rural Youth Feature** Kaysie the creative as we shall call her took on the reins of Feature Tent for 2015. In my absence, from reports gained, not only from members but from the general public, Kaysie did a fantastic job and from the interested member slips filled out, she had a successful event. Thanks for your hard work Kaysie, you are a valuable asset to the organisation. Phillipa has taken the reins in preparation for Agfest 2016.

**Newsletter** This year the newsletter was done by our Junior Vice President, Phillipa Green. Between her busy life of finishing University, and going on placement, Phillipa delivered a well presented newsletter, to our letterboxes each month. The format for the newsletter could change into the coming year but I thank you Phillipa for all your hard work and effort that you put into the presentation of the document each month. After having to compile the first couple of editions for the year, I understand how much time and effort goes into putting together such a great document. I also look forward to seeing the end Annual report too. Many thanks for your hard work Phillipa, it does not go unnoticed.

**Top Teams** After the position initially sitting vacant until mid-June, Emma Rayner took charge and hit the ground running and organized a day of competitions run in conjunction with the Young Farmer weekend, it's great to see so many members having fun on what is by far the most anticipated weekend for the members for the year. Thank you for taking on the role when no one else would. I truly appreciate this.

**Rural Roundup** Simone, the magic woman! Simone took on Rural Roundup for 2015 which saw the highlighting of our very talented members. Thank you for work with the competition Simone, and the changes you made this year. Let's hope to see more entries next year.

**Merchandise** Another role done diligently and thoughtfully by Simone, bringing many new and exciting options to the table for merchandise for the organisation. A clear out of old merchandise has been continued, with the anticipation of some new and exciting merchandise next year, thank you Simone for your work and research around merchandise, I have enjoyed seeing the novel things you have discovered that you can in fact put your logo on.

**Young Farmer Competition** Amanda Bayles was appointed as the Young Farmer Competition director in 2015, and what a fiercely contested and tight competition it was. The top prize again this year was a Polaris Quad bike which was won by Will McConnon, a fitting triumph for Will in the last year he was able to compete. This year's competition saw entrants doing everything from Livestock welfare, irrigation management, varying ways of preparing and cooking eggs and of course public speaking and the quiz. Massive congratulations as always to those who entered and competed. To compete it to win and well done.

**Study Tours** Kate Coad remained as the point of contact this year for Study Tours, with some help and assistance when she was unable to attend events. Kate ran the outgoing study tour weekend at Glendale Olives, and Olive grove and production farm owned by Christine Mann, a past but still very active member for the organisation. With only one incoming exchange this year around Agfest time it was a lot quieter than years past. Linda in the head office has taken over the admin side of things, processing the paperwork for our members leaving and those incoming. Thanks for your continual hard work Kate, I don't know where I would be without your support and help.

**Sponsorship & Grants** A role originally taken on by Amanda Bayles in the start of the year, which was then taken on by our General Manager, Karen Robinson from an Admin point of view across Rural Youth and Agfest. Thank you Amanda for your initial work in this role, and thank you Karen for all your work you have done towards this.

**Website** Last but most definitely not the least is the website. Continued by Simone, the website has only got better. After undergoing an incredible revamp over the past 18 months, we now have online membership renewal which is a fantastic milestone for the organisation and a true sign of moving forward with the times. I cannot thank you for the incredible amount of work that has gone into making the website what it is today. It's bright, vibrant and out there. It really pops off the screen and is very fresh. Well done Simone!

In 2015, council held regular meetings, functions and events. The year started with the AGM in February held at Riverlands Church in Longford, it was organised by Northern Region. The AGM was held over one day, to allow people to travel home if they wished. Members that stayed after the AGM, went to Bracknell Pub for tea, with those members staying at the Hadspen Caravan Park that evening.

Following on from AGM in February, we held our follow up meetings, electing the State Executive and beginning the process of filling positions for directorships. Once this was done the year began to progress. In April, I set off on my international exchange for 6 weeks, by which Simone held charge of the computer and phone for me in my absence, and Ricky acted in my absence at official engagements over the three days of Agfest. While I was away for the 6 weeks, I missed Agfest, something that was unheard of for me, I would like to congratulate Amanda on her third and final year as Agfest Chair. A congratulations must also be extended to all of the members of the committee, and volunteers that were involved in organising and participating in the event. Your hard work for one day or a whole month, doesn't go unnoticed. Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated. From all reports gained in my absence, it was as per usual a fantastic event. I look forward to being involved with Agfest in 2016 and simply cannot wait.

Following on from Agfest was the Agfest dinner the following weekend that I arrived home from overseas. I was so pleased to see everyone and catch up with people, I really did miss everyone and was so pleased to be home. As per usual, the Agfest dinner was a good opportunity to let our hair down, relax and celebrate what a great event we have.

From the great night that was had at the Agfest dinner, we headed off to State Ball, hosted by the North West Region held at the Ulverstone Surf Club. A great night was had by all who attended, with the announcement of the study tour recipients. Congratulations must go to Phillipa is headed off to Canada, Amanda to United States, and Babette off to the United Kingdom. Jake Williams is off on the Young Endeavour, with Andrea White being selected for the RYLA Youth Camp.

Once July came and went, attention turned to the Young Farmer competition and dinner in September. A very big thank you to Southern Region who organized a great "Gatsby" themed evening of which we all enjoyed. The competition this year was a tight one with a matter of points between those who made it into the top 6. A fiercely contested competition came down to the wire, contested by the 2 brother. Will and Marty McConnon. The eventual winner was Will, and deservingly so. Massive congratulations must go to all of those who entered and competed. I have been there and feel your nervousness and can offer only one bit of advice, have fun. To compete is to win.

The Young Farmer competition was one of the last events for the year, as local clubs started to wind up ready to help out with local Ag Shows and events. The last few months of the year can be quiet for some, but hectically busy for others.

During my term as State President and even prior I have sat on the Resource Allocation Committee and also on the Property Management Committee before it was placed into recess. Firstly, I will touch on RAC. Paul Bennett has been the chair of RAC this year, he is a great leveler, source of information, and support for all rural youth members. He has also a driving force behind the reigniting of Western Tiers. Each year, we say goodbye to a delegate from Advisory that has sat on RAC for a 3-year term. This year we bid farewell to Jayne Clark. Jayne, over the last 3 years has been a great help and source of information when required. With Property Management going into recess, the role of managing property now falls under the jurisdiction of RAC. With this decision made, a caretaker was employed to help maintain the facilities at Quercus.

2015 has been an interesting and challenging year. Early in the piece, the decision was made to employ a General Manager, to help guide and direct the organisation, and to help drive it forward into the future. I was unfortunately unavailable for the interview process, and nominated people to be there in my absence. The interviews were conducted and a suitable fit found. We were absolutely delighted when they agreed and said yes! Along came Karen Robinson! With the employment of Karen, she immediately hit the ground running and has become a very valuable asset to the organization. Karen's in-depth knowledge of governance, and all things related to not for profits is phenomenal and highly appreciated. She is working hard to move the organisation forward and we appreciate all the work she does. I cannot thank Karen enough for the support she has been for me.

Kate Coad, wonder woman as we affectionately know her. Always there on the other end of the phone when a friendly ear was needed or advice sought. Kate has always been an incredible mentor for me, and this year has proved an even greater help. Making me strive for my best, pushing me and challenging me to get the best outcomes. I cannot thank you enough Kate for everything you have done for me over the last 12 months, you have been incredible.

Simone Hayers. Simone as the immediate past President has provided me with a great sounding board, fountain of knowledge and platform of strength at times. Simone stepped up into the role of treasurer at short notice on the dawn of budget setting. Her incredible business sense has proved invaluable as she is constantly keeping tabs on bits and pieces in her travels and always asking the questions.

My Vice presidents, Ricky and Phillipa. Although you guys have been incredibly busy this year, you have always been there to support me, on the other end of the phone, or next to me in a RAC or council meeting. You've always been a great help and for this I can't thank you enough. I hope you

continue in your upward directions with the organisation, as you are valuable members to the organisation.

To State Council, who were there for meetings, even if they were til 10pm at night, for supporting hair brained ideas, listening to the bad ones, and helping me find my way this year. You guys have been a great pillar of support not only for myself but the organisation.

To the members, you guys are what make this organisation what it is. You make it great! You all bring something unique, individual, and different to everything you do. Your spark is inspiring and I hope to speak to more of you in the coming years. Thank you all for making this organisation great.

Lastly, but most definitely not the least, my amazing partner Callum. You have been my pillar of strength, my rock, my confidant, shoulder to cry on when everything went pear shaped but most of all, you've been yourself. You have been there when I wanted to quit and challenged me as to why, you reminded me why I love this organisation so much and supported me even when I had the most ridiculous hair brain ideas! I always said our time was our time, but you always understood when I was up late doing 'just one email' or out of bed early sending in another report for a meeting. You have supported me like no other and always brought me back to earth. Thank you.

To each and every person reading this report, thank you for contributing in some way to making this organisation great. You are all fabulous!

**Prue Dennis**  
**State President 2015**





# General Manager

Change and Challenge are the two words that spring to mind when I think of Rural Youth in 2015. As with the majority of member/volunteer based organisations Rural Youth is facing the challenges of:

- Retaining and increasing active members;
- Maintaining relevance in a changing environment;
- Rising operating costs and legislative requirements;
- Competition for member's time and loyalty.

My appointment in late March was the first of several changes in paid personnel. September saw a part time Caretaker employed at Quercus for the first time and our Administrative Assistant, Kadesha Bishop left in December to pursue a career in Nursing. At the time of writing Deanna Wadley had been appointed to Kadesha's role and a replacement Caretaker was in the process of being employed as our original appointment had decided the role wasn't for him.

The biggest change from an organisational point of view was the decision in late August to put the Property Management Committee into recess for 12 months. It had come to a point where what was being asked of our Committee was beyond the capacity of what a volunteer group could reasonably be expected to deliver. Given we are now in somewhat uncharted territory these situations will be monitored closely to ensure they best suit the needs of the members and our Organisation. This is particularly true as we investigate possibilities for its long term use, considering possibilities for future development and ongoing viability.

Clubs have had mixed fortunes – some, like King Island, Devonport, Western Tiers and Central Highlands gaining members and building momentum whilst others have struggled to hold meetings and gain traction. Supporting Clubs will be a major focus for 2016.

Agfest continues to be a showcase for our Organisation as a premier event, we are constantly striving to improve as we realise others are competing for patron and exhibitor support and loyalty.

I have spoken of Change and Challenge, now I would briefly like to touch on another word – one which I hope will come to signify 2016 – 'Opportunity'. Despite the challenges we face I see Rural Youth has much to offer current and potential members. Communities are looking for ways for their young people to connect, this is something we can provide through our Clubs and Organisation network and will also be a focus for 2016.

In closing I would like to pay particular tribute to the work of Selena and Linda – they are constants in the Organisation who continue to do an amazing job regardless of the situation. The support and good humour they have shown me since I commenced has been second to none and greatly appreciated. As has the support provided by immediate past and present State Presidents, RAC and Agfest Chairs and their respective committees. The challenges have been many – but we are starting to see progress.

I look forward to building on the work commenced in 2015 and being able to expand on what has been achieved in next year's report.

**Karen Robinson**  
**General Manager**

# Agfest



Well what another great year comes to the end!

As always Agfest 2015 planning started way back shortly after the annual meeting in July 2014.

To kick it off there was brainstorming held at Quercus, where we were able to picture ideas to put to reality. Many good ideas came out of brainstorming to implement during the year.

The following week was also the annual Association of Agricultural Field Days of Australasia (AAFDA) conference where Kate, Kadesha and I went to Western Australia to explore the Dowerin Machinery Field Days, located about 2 hours' drive north east from Perth, we were based at Perth so the bus trip out to the site was a great time to get to know other delegates.

The Dowerin site is set on a football oval using a hall to the side and to the other side using the adjacent paddock as it has expanded over the years. Our day at the field days was just self-exploring with a number of must check out during the day and with only one day to do – including getting around the site, how is it laid out, the ag art wear, official opening just to name a few. The remainder conference was a tour around the region and the meeting.

The first major change for Agfest 2015 was that the application form would no longer be a paper copy – we went online. So after many meetings and testing of what we wanted and needed we went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. There were the few teething problems but nothing that wasn't easily fixed.

Moving closer to May and there were various challenges pop their heads up, but we as a team were able to deal with efficiently to ensure the gates opened on time.

As always the weather is a talking point – what will it be like? Well this year the week prior was great, as was the week after, yup we got left with a rather windy week. Even to the extent that the decision was made to close the site for Tuesday afternoon due to the wind gusts. Well done to everyone involved in making such a big call, one that has never had to be make before.

During the week of Agfest we were hosting the AAFDA conference where we had 30 delegates from around Australia attended. Delegates experienced Agfest on the Thursday, attended the conference on the Friday and a tour of the region on the Saturday.



This year we were lucky enough to have then Prime Minister Tony Abbott tour around Agfest for a few hours and then open Agfest in central arena, making it a rather full central arena which was great to walk in to. There were many other great attractions and people attending Agfest 2015 including the Yamaha Supertank, Stihl Timbersports, Frank and Nikki from Betta Milk just to name a few. Attendance figures for Agfest 2015 were 56,741 people, slightly down on the past few years.

It now comes to the end of three years or 1085 days as your Chairman and thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank all those who have supported me from family and friends outside Agfest to the Office and Committee. We have all worked together to produce a great Field Day.

Good luck to all of the incoming committee for Agfest 2016

**Amanda Bayles**  
**Agfest Chairman 2015**



# Resource Allocation Committee

The past year has seen RAC consolidate and build on the work commenced by the 2014 Committee.

A major focus has been placed on engaging professionals to deal with ongoing issues at Quercus. The fire pump and waste water plan are two such examples where Irrigation Tas and Macquarie Franklin have provided us with great support and advice as we work towards cost effective solutions for the organisation.

As you are aware the Property Management Committee was placed into recess for 12 months in August and a part time Caretaker employed. On the whole the feedback we have received to date has been very positive, particularly in regards to having someone available on site for contractors and site hirers, in addition to the maintenance work that has been undertaken. A full review of Property Management/Caretaker role will be conducted in August/September and in the interim we will make any necessary changes to meet business needs as we endeavour to find the best model for the organisation.

With the support of the Admin team we are building files in the office for all of our projects, infrastructure, plant and equipment so that we have access to complete records and we do not have to rely on members' memories for information, this will save confusion as Committees rotate and enable us to manage our assets more effectively.

We have and will continue to invest heavily both financially and in manpower in WHS, we take our duty of care very seriously and have done considerable work around this and we will continue to do so in the coming months.

Our sound financial base has enabled us to meet our rising operational costs, 2016 will see us focus on developing alternate income streams, particularly through the greater use of Quercus to ensure we see a suitable return on our investment, in addition to growing revenue.

The staffing structure of the organisation has changed and is constantly under review to meet the needs of our members and organisation. Statutory and business requirements have grown and often members find themselves time poor therefore this is reflected in our increased staffing levels and operating costs. The goal for 2016 is to have time and resources available for staff to work with Committees and Clubs to grow membership and better promote Rural Youth.

In closing I would like to thank those who have contributed to the work of the Committee in 2015 and in particular acknowledge the work of Jayne Clark as she completes her term, her enthusiasm and passion will be missed and I look forward to what we can achieve in 2016 and beyond.

**Paul Bennett**  
**RAC Chairman 2015**

# Property Management

Over the past 12 months I was given the opportunity to be Property Chairman. It has been a big learning curve for me, but with limited handover I took on the challenge to face what was thrown my way and do the best I could. It was a hectic and crazy year as within a couple of weeks of taking on the role, Tasmania was hit with a huge wind storm which caused a lot of damage at Quercus. Eventually insurance came through, fences and power boxes were fixed, fallen and dangerous trees were removed allowing the site to reopen for volunteers and site hires.

The fire main was the biggest job throughout the year. We were always finding leaks, fixing them and trying to get them to test up to pressure, this often felt like a losing battle. There were meetings held with Meander Valley Council and Tas Fire asking to get a reduced pressure within the grounds of Quercus Park. This is an ongoing issue but it is hoped it will be resolved in the near future.

This year I had cement slabs poured all around the fire hydrants on the roads for safety purposes to make it easier for Tas Fire to find and access quickly. By doing this it also meant that with the heavy traffic of trucks and vehicles over Agfest and wet conditions they were still easily found.

With Agfest approaching, the property team had a small group of members attending working bees to ensure the grounds and facilities were up to date and clean for handover. Continued poor attendance at working bees made it extremely difficult to maintain the site to standard; however, we did the best we could.

Before Agfest the compound area was broken into with anything that was of value and use stolen from the area or the green shed. This included tools, materials, equipment and fuel. This made for a long and difficult task amongst all committees but by working together we were able to list and replace what was needed to ensure roles could be completed successfully and as stress free as possible at Agfest.

In the last 12 months we welcomed previous and new site hirers. Hirers used the function centre for weddings, birthdays, football dinners/awards nights and engagements. The site was hired to NTEC, Midlands Polocrosse, Remote Control Car Club, St Patricks College, Christian Community Group, Carrick Rodeo, Heritage Machinery Rally, Truck Show to name a few. These alone have kept the Committee busy making sure they had water, power, clean toilets and other hired facilities, in addition to ensuring they were happy with everything we had to offer.

As most of you would know by now the Property Management Committee has been put into recess for a period of 12 months, after this the situation will be reassessed. This decision was taken for many reasons:

- Meetings were being postponed and/or cancelled due to a lack of quorum;
- Lack of support/assistance from Rural Youth members at working bees which meant it has been extremely difficult to commence and finish projects;
- The workload was becoming more and more demanding for members and paid contractors were being engaged on a regular basis.

After much discussion between Committees and the General Manager a Caretaker was hired for three days a week to maintain Quercus grounds, facilities and site hiring enquiries which will hopefully relieve some of the pressure on the office and volunteers.

I am hoping it works out well, it will be a big help having someone that can promise their time to it and not just weekends or a few hours after work.

As my role has now ended and the duties are being handled by the Caretaker and the office I would like to wish them all the best with the new changes and the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all Committees for allowing me the chance to be Property Chair and I am sorry the year did not see us achieve as much as we had hoped. I would also like to thank the three ladies in the office for their constant support and advice, you all made my role easier. I would also like to thank the Committee that stood with me; you all had something to offer the team and assisted where you could.

Good luck for the future.

**Keith Lee**  
**Property Management Committee Chairman 2015**





# Competitions

Competitions this year saw a few competitions run and won. Impromptu public speaking at AGM with left field questions always make for a good laugh. This year, after only having received 2 Top Club Submissions, we decided to reward those efforts and split the prize between the 2 clubs. These winners were Kingborough Huon and Westmorland. Congratulations for the efforts contributed, below is the list of other winners of awards at the AGM weekend.

## **Champion Club in Competitions**

**State Winner:** Westmorland

**Southern winner:** Central Highlands

**Northern Winner:** Westmorland

**North West Winner:** North Motton

## **Club attendance at State functions**

**State Winner:** Dorset

**Southern winner:** Central Highlands

**Northern winner:** Dorset

**Northwest Winner:** North Motton

## **Club Expansion**

**Greatest member expansion: Percentage** Dorset

**Greatest increase in numbers:** Dorset

**Public Speaking Overall:** Anthony Franklin

With the conclusion of the AGM weekend, we turned to the selection weekend for the Most Outstanding and Best New Member awards. To try something a little differently this year and reduce on travel for some, we held the selection weekend in line with the Study Tour selections. This proved beneficial as it was one less trip that members were required to make North for some of them. The eventual winners were selected but the judges seemed fit that they award a separate prize to another member for their outstanding contribution to the organisation. The eventual Best New Member award was Emma Rayner of Central Highlands, most outstanding member was Phillipa Green of Sorell, and the outstanding contribution to the Organisation special prize was awarded to Sam Larder of Central Highlands. Congratulations must go to these girls. Their hard work and efforts have paid off and duly recognized. These awards were presented to the winners at State Ball.

With the hype of Study Tours and Member awards beginning to settle we turned our efforts to the Annual Shooting competition, Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October saw the annual Competition occur. A magical day on the hill and flats at the SSAA Bracknell branch made for a great day of competition and friendly rivalry.

Results are as follows:

### **Men's Rifle**

Stuart Cresswell, Western Tiers 25  
Phil Downham, Central Highlands 24  
Tobias Ten Bensal, Kingborough Huon 24  
Alex White, Kingborough Huon 22  
Tim Cresswell, Western Tiers 15  
Jye Earnshaw, Westmorland (with an open sided rifle) 4

### **Women's Rifle**

Andrea White, Westmorland 25  
Prue Dennis, Westmorland 17  
Amanda Bayles, Westmorland 15  
Sam Larder, Central Highlands 13  
Kat Cenin, Western Tiers 10

### **Men's Clay Target**

Stuart Cresswell, Western Tiers 15  
Phil Downham, Central Highlands 14  
Tim Cresswell, Western Tiers 12  
Alex White, Kingborough Huon 9  
Tobias Ten Bensal, Kingborough Huon 7

### **Women's Clay Target**

Prue Dennis, Westmorland 6  
Amanda Bayles, Westmorland 3  
Kat Cenin, Western Tiers 1

Congratulations to all of our winners. Well done on your efforts and thanks for coming out for a great day with Lunch that followed at Bracknell Hotel.

With the conclusion of the Shooting competition, this saw the end of competitions for the year. We look forward to what 2016 holds with we hope some new and exciting competitions.

### **Prue Dennis**

#### **Competitions Director 2015**



## Feature Tent

Agfest 2015, Rural Youth Feature saw a windy year! At times there were things flying everywhere. When the weather behaved we had a hoot playing lolly pong with the patrons. Our photo booth was a big hit, particularly with the school kids. Maybe this could be included in the next feature tent?

A number of potential members visited feature tent to ask questions and to investigate what we are all about. It was a great time to showcase just what Rural Youth has to offer.

A massive thanks to those who helped out on the three days, and big shout out to Nicole Elliott my trusty side kick.

Due to a practical joke we saw 'DAVE' become a thing of what rural youth is all about and yes people did actually ask what Dave was.... Thanks Dave Stephens and Luke Reid for the sabotage of our sign.

Good luck for Agfest 2016

All the best,

**Kaysie Wood**

**RY Feature Tent Coordinator 2015**



## Leadership & Training

Encouraging the younger members to step up and have go is the key to keeping and retaining new and also the more experienced members. Positive reinforcement is another key to success with the younger members, as the older members exit rural youth we need to have the members with skills and knowledge to manage their roles within the organisation. This year as training director I have made some good business relationship with some training groups.

Media training occurred with everyone that attended the course recommending it to others! It showed that in this age media doesn't just include print and radio, but also how to work with the media online.

Governance training also happened in late 2015, with members of state council and the Agfest executive learning about how Work place safety is everyone's responsibility.

I have some planed courses coming up in March 2016 with forklifts. I hope to continue in this role and get some more training happening within the organisation as it is advertised on our posters.

Thanks,

**Ricky Edson**  
**Training Director 2015**





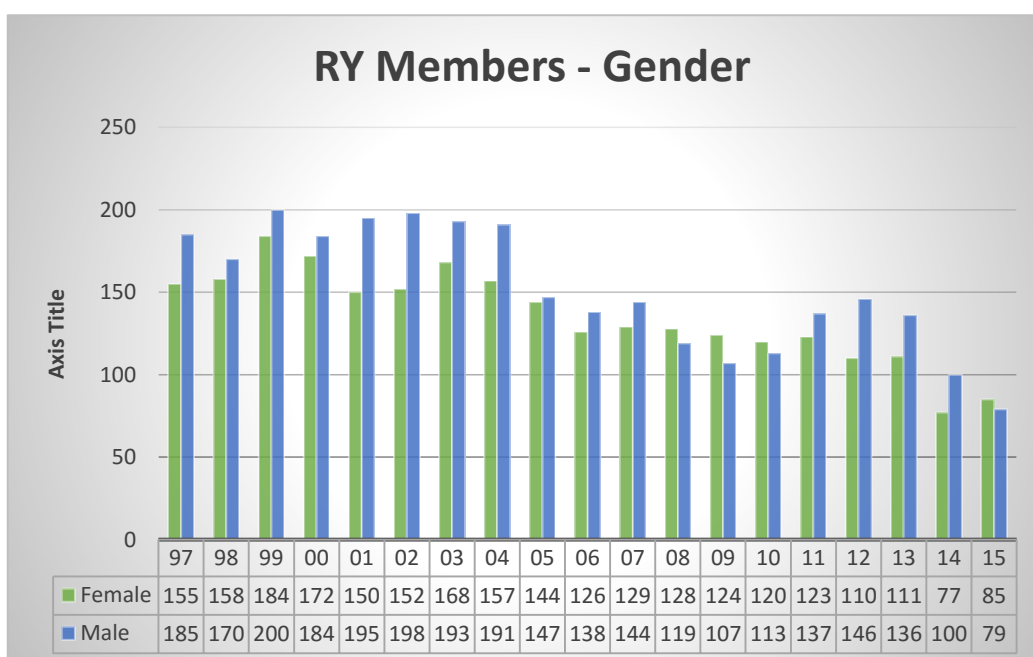
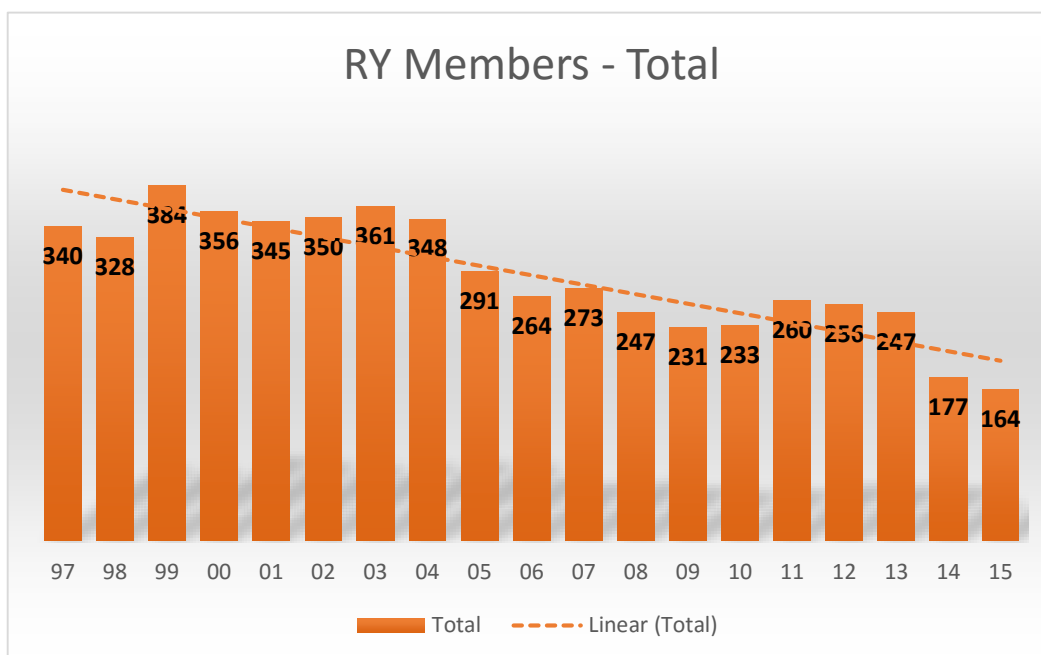
# Membership

## Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc Membership Statistics

*As at December 21, 2015*



Club	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Brighton	24	33	44	16	12
Central Highlands				12	19
Circular Head	14	15	12	12	0
Devonport	27	15	18	11	22
Dorset	19	19	11	6	10
Hagley	28	15	14	11	5
Isolated Members	11	10	17	14	9
Kingborough-Huon	28	32	28	25	22
North Esk (formerly Evandale)	12	17	8	1	0
North Motton	13	13	15	22	14
Oatlands	21	14	9	9	12
Sisters Creek	9	8	13	10	3
Sorell	5	15	14	9	14
Tamar	11	12	2	2	4
Tasman	6	4	4	0	0
Western Tiers	12	12	10	0	4
Westmorland	20	22	28	17	14
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>164</b>



# Merchandise

For 2015 I took over the role of merchandise director, with help from Simone Hayers. The organisation has merchandise from previous years that has been hard to sell, so the thought for 2015 was to keep it simple. Pens and notepad clips were purchased and were available at Agfest.

More balloons were also purchased and the clubs and regions can make use of these for functions and events.

I must thank Simone and head office with their support for this role for 2015, and I wish luck to the next director.

Thanks,

**Phillipa Green**  
**Merchandise Director 2015**



# Newsletter

First of all I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the newsletter in 2015. I took on the role and in the first couple of issues I was pretty nervous having people read what I had written! Over time I got over my fear and was happy to produce a newsletter for everyone to read. I found it interesting and fun at times seeing what the other clubs and regions were up too! There were also times I wasn't sure if an edition was going to make it out that month, with content at times hard to come by!

Special thanks must go to the clubs that provided me with reports and pictures without me having to remind them! Oatlands, Kingborough Huon and Central Highlands were just a few of the clubs that produced interesting and funny reports to read each month!

I also must thank head office, and in particular Kadesha. She was there at the end of the phone, or via email whenever I had questions or whatever about the newsletter. She also painstakingly proof read all of my newsletters, and was always lovely to me even when I was a little late with some of the deadlines! Two other people I must thank are Ebony McConnon and Ashley Hobbins. They are both brilliant at providing photos for the front cover for the newsletter and always have something of interest to show! Thanks ladies!

I hope into the future the newsletter can be updated and bring it into the current technology climate, whether that be electronic or maybe even a Facebook version!

I wish good luck to the incoming newsletter director and will look forward to reading their first issue!

Thanks.

**Phillipa Green**  
**Newsletter Editor 2015**



# Promotions

In 2015 Promotions has been really active in aiming to draw as much positive media about Rural Youth as possible. Stories on many topics have been delivered to and ran by media outlets around the state.

Some of my personal favourites for the year were the McConnon brothers finishing first and second in the Young Farmer of the Year Competition. After a massive day of competition, only a few points separated the brothers and it was fitting that in his final year of being eligible to compete, that Will took the win.

Will's speech upon receiving his award was one of pure class. He spoke of his love for the Organisation and how the opportunities that it has created for him has been life changing. In the weeks following, media followed Will and the images of him on the farm, riding his new ATV spoke a thousand words for Rural Youth.

In September the Kingborough Huon Rural Youth Club had a group of ten members attend the Red Cross to complete a group donation of whole blood. Many nervous faces attended to donate for the first time and local media loved this story, with many local Hobart newspapers spreading the message that the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania complete so much good work in the community, compounded by the lifesaving efforts upon donating blood.

Finally, in December Rural Youth launched a new club and spread its wings onto King Island. The new club establishment gained momentum after locals heard about Will McConnon's win in the Young Farmer Competition via their local radio broadcasters. In mid-December the club held their first ever AGM, with eight members signing up for the 2016 year. Exciting times lie ahead for the Island and Rural Youth as the club aims to become active in our states yearly activities. We look forward to getting to know those from King Island.

The Clubs establishment is a clear example of the power of media though and on the back of one story, another comes along, giving us more opportunities to sell our brand to the community.

Moving into 2016, we remind all clubs and members that there is a story in every activity. Media outlets are always looking to run feel good stories that put a smile on people's faces. As an organisation, we have many of these stories to be told, we just need to get better at telling them!

**Dale Hayers**

**Rural Youth Promotions Director 2015**

# Rural Round Up

The Rural Round Up Competition was held on the 12 September 2015 as a part of the Young Farmer of the Year Competition. This year Ricky Edson took over the overall winners spot with entries in handmade toys, metal work, photography and pottery just to name a few.

We had seven (7) entrants, Jocelyn Patmore, Dale Hayers, Simone Hayers, Ricky Edson, Alicia Glatte, Amanda Bayles and Andrea White.

The small changes made for this year with the photography section by combining all the sub categories of colour, black and white, photo shopped and enlargements together made the whole process much easier and much quicker to judge as in previous years it has been a tedious task to get everything organised in time for the judges.

We had four (4) judges available from the CWA for the judging which meant that it only took an hour to judge all the entries. The ladies suggested a few changes for next year which I have will include in the manual for the incoming coordinator.

I would like to thank Jocelyn Patmore and Karen Robinson for all their help on the day putting photos up on the wall etc. It made life a lot easier!

At the Rural Youth Council meeting after the competition the future of Rural Round Up was discussed and how we could better promote this competition to ensure that it stays a part of the Young Farmer of the Year Competition weekend.

I wish the incoming coordinator all the best of luck. This is a nice position to do to feel a part of the Rural Youth Council committee for those that don't have a lot of time to spare.

The winners are outlined below.

## Section 1 – Photography

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b>Rural Youth/ Agfest</b>	Ricky Edson	Ricky Edson	Ricky Edson
<b>Waterscape</b>	Ricky Edson	Simone Hayers	Simone Hayers
<b>Rural Scene</b>	Simone Hayers	Ricky Edson	Ricky Edson
<b>Landscape</b>	Dale Hayers	Simone Hayers	Ricky Edson
<b>Portrait</b>	Jocelyn Patmore	Jocelyn Patmore	Jocelyn Patmore
<b>Animal Study</b>	Ricky Edson	Simone Hayers	Simone Hayers
<b>Floral/ Garden Study</b>	Ricky Edson	Ricky Edson	Ricky Edson

<b>Study Tour</b>	No Entries		
<b>Social Scene</b>	No Entries		
<b>Action Shot</b>	Simone Hayers	Amanda Bayles	Ricky Edson

## Section 2 - Cooking

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b>Cake – Supplied Recipe</b>	Amanda Bayles		
<b>Biscuits – Supplied Recipe</b>	Simone Hayers	Jocelyn Patmore	
<b>Truffles</b>	No Entries		
<b>Packet Cake Mix</b>	Simone Hayers	Jocelyn Patmore	
<b>Slice – Own Recipe</b>	Simone Hayers	Jocelyn Patmore	
<b>Decorated Cup Cakes</b>	Andrea White		

## Section 3 Craft

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>Handmade craft</b>	No Entries
<b>Scrapbooking- 1 page</b>	No Entries
<b>Scrapbooking- double page</b>	No Entries
<b>Handmade Toy</b>	Ricky Edson
<b>Flower arrangement-fresh</b>	No Entries
<b>Flower arrangement- artificial</b>	Ricky Edson
<b>Christmas decoration</b>	No Entries
<b>Teddy Bear</b>	No Entries
<b>Drawing- Landscape/portrait or other</b>	No Entries

## Section 4- Needle work, Patchwork

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>Hand embroidery</b>	Amanda Bayles
<b>Counted cross stitch</b>	No Entries
<b>Long stitch</b>	No Entries
<b>Knitted Scarf (hand knitted)</b>	No Entries
<b>Knitting any article (Hand knitted)</b>	No Entries
<b>Appliquéd article- no wall hangings</b>	No Entries

<b>Patchwork - no wall hangings</b>	No Entries
<b>Wall hanging (patchwork or appliqué)</b>	No Entries
<b>Cushion</b>	No Entries
<b>Cushion</b>	No Entries

#### Section 5- Handiwork

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>Leatherwork</b>	No Entries
<b>Woodwork</b>	Alicia Glatte
<b>Metalwork</b>	Ricky Edson
<b>Pottery</b>	Ricky Edson
<b>Model</b>	No Entries

#### Section 6- Just for fun

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>Animal made from fruit and vegetables</b>	Andrea White
<b>Thrift article- something made out of recycled items</b>	No Entries
<b>Best polished boot</b>	No Entries
<b>Best packed lunch</b>	No Entries

#### Section 7- CWA handicrafts

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>2 items of handicrafts</b>	Amanda Bayles
<b>1 item of cooking</b>	Amanda Bayles
<b>1 item of own choice</b>	Amanda Bayles

#### Section 8- Club Handicrafts

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<b>2 items of handicrafts</b>	No Entries
<b>2 items of cooking</b>	No Entries

Thanks,

**Simone Hayers**  
**Rural Round Up Director 2015**



# Safety

2015 saw a lot of talking and auditing about our Work Health & Safety but unfortunately not necessarily a lot of action.

In late 2015 an external consultant did an audit report on all of our Work Health and Safety items that Rural Youth has done to date and he has also identified a whole heap of things that we haven't done.

Identified as a part of the review was the need for executive members (both Rural Youth Council and Agfest) to attend some Work Health & Safety Training. This training was delivered on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December by Martin at IPM Safety. The training was very good and insightful. The basic principles that we covered were an overview on WHS and an insight into the Safety Circle.

For those that aren't familiar with the Safety Circle concept here is a brief overview (from IPM's website):

*The SafetyCircle Program is a powerful workplace cultural change program that is designed for Australian workplaces using Australian language and ideas. The SafetyCircle builds a positive WHS culture in organisations by empowering each employee and leader to make their workplace healthy & safe; achieve Work Safe - Enjoy Life and be able to enjoy their whole lives.*

## **Engaging People in WHS Management**

*IPM Safety developed this original and powerful approach to work health and safety (WHS) in 2005 and with over 2000 participants in employee and leader sessions we have been continuously improving it since then. The key to the effectiveness of the SafetyCircle Program is in the personal engagement the conversation inspires in employees when they truly 'get it'. Our SafetyCircle trainers are highly experienced in leading the group conversation that investigates the real core of workplace health and safety. The central ideas involve having each individual see that they have the most to lose if WHS goes wrong, so they are the biggest stakeholder in the game.*

## **Developing Conversation**

*The conversation that occurs in the SafetyCircle training sessions opens employees' eyes and minds to how a positive and strong WHS culture is in their own interests to foster; to uphold and follow the rules; and to demand this of their employer and their workmates.*

*Participants get to identify typical reasons 'Why Safety Drops Out', how to get themselves and their workmates back inside the circle and what it takes to stay inside the SafetyCircle. The common negative attitudes to WHS are typically eradicated by the session – attitudes such as: 'WHS is over the top'; 'WHS is about paperwork & red tape more than my safety'; 'WHS? Boring...'; 'WHS is just management butt-covering'.*

*We have found that people take away a positive attitude about WHS; attitudes like: 'WHS is about me, so I'll speak up more'; 'I'm willing to interrupt my own unsafe acts and those of my workmates'; 'WHS keeps me safe so I can enjoy my life and my family'; and so on.*

### **Encouraging "Buy In"**

*Throughout the session employees are encouraged to 'buy-in' to playing the Safety Game and to work inside the SafetyCircle. They have the chance and are encouraged to make verbal agreements and then sign a commitment to work inside the SafetyCircle. They receive a printed certificate reminding them of the key agreements they have made at the session.*

### **Transforming Workplaces**

*The SafetyCircle conversation provides an opportunity to transform the WHS culture in the workplace, a catalyst for a paradigm shift. The SafetyCircle program draws a line and provides a clear pathway for the management of WHS into the future in a clear, concise and practical way. SafetyCircle is not about 'right' or 'wrong' but instead provides the building blocks for greater WHS workability through everyone taking personal responsibility to achieve the Work Safe - Enjoy Life Goal.*

Basically when it comes to WHS, we have a choice to go home safely to our families and friends. The choices we make at any moment can impact our future. WE need to make the right choices and ensure that other members make the right choices so that we can continue to enjoy our lives into the future.

Hopefully in 2016, we can really begin to sink our teeth in the WHS requirements to ensure that we are compliant now and into the future and we will be able to report on the number of incidents (we hope none!) and that we have headed in leaps and bounds to ensure the safety of our members.

**Simone Hayers**  
**Safety Director 2015**

## Senior Vice President

This was my first year in a higher role on state council and I was able to step up when Prue went on her study tour and was away over Agfest, I have enjoyed my year as senior vice president. I was able to attend a few club meetings and meet some new members, and it was good to see Central Highlands club pull together, as they have a great membership pool.

With the newest club of King Island, it great to see mates come together and form a club at grass roots level. Being involved in more Rural Youth activities will see King Island become stronger. Having a positive image in the local community, by getting involved in local community events will give the club a good name and will make people to get involved. I had the pleasure of being the Rural Youth liaison with the National Historical machinery rally back in March, spending a few hours each night on site and the 3 days of the events with the guys, helping and suppling good. At times I had to think outside the square with some running repairs, cable ties and duct tape come in handy with fixing a leaking pipe, but it did the job.

Thanks,

**Ricky Edson**  
**Senior Vice President 2015**



# Sponsorship

In late 2014 the Sponsorship packages were given a face lift and it was all worked very much as a combined package between Rural Youth and Agfest and all working it together, with the main difference being the naming rights for events.

In mid-2015 the sponsorship packages went further revision and a change in structure for the organisation. The first point of contact now being the office then on to the respective director, this giving a sense of consistency between all sponsors.

On behalf of Rural Youth Tasmania I would like to thank all our valued sponsors.

**Amanda Bayles**

**Sponsorship Director 2015**



# Study Tours

## The Process...

In the April/May editions of the Newsletter the application period was promoted for all financial Rural Youth members to apply for a Rural Youth Study Tour, this year the allocation being; Rotary Youth Leadership Camp (Ulverstone), self-nominated up to \$550 each (two opportunities), Young Endeavour, United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada. Applications closed on May 29<sup>th</sup>, and applications were well supported this year with nine people originally submitting application!



## What applicants had to do...

To apply for Study Tour, applicants must complete application form, submit a letter explaining their desire to apply and provide background in personal endeavours as well as Rural Youth history/involvement/aspirations. From here applicants are contacted and this is where this year changed slightly compared to previous years in offering two options for Selection Day dates. This was implemented to provide opportunity for flexibility in this process, which proved to work well and definitely something to continue into the future, should Rural Youth Council wish for this to do so.

## Selection Day...

Huge thank you to each of the three judges, Christine Mann (*Past member, past State President, past Site Manager for Agfest – before the Exhibitor/Operations role split, and exchangee to Switzerland*), Tracey Badcock (*Past member, past member of Resource Allocation Committee, Past Agfest Treasurer, Past exchangee to Beef Expo via the Self Nomination process*), and Melinda Hyland (*past member, past Agfest Schools Kit coordinator, and last year's UK Exchangee!*)

The Selection Day, one and two, took place at Glendale Olives, Evandale. Applicants were treated to an Olive Farm Tour, in which they had to provide a written report on within 30 hours after the selection day closed. They were quizzed on general knowledge, Rural Youth knowledge and agricultural knowledge within Australia. Each person had to present a demonstration to their audience, for no longer than 10 minutes, then a 15 minute interview with the judge panel was held.

## Thinking of applying...

Now is the time to plan your submission for next year, if you are considering your options in applying for Study Tours gather your facts now... can you get time off work?, financial plans to afford your adventure.. Talk to past applicants/study tour recipients... Explore your options!

The Study Tours available for 2016 application period are;

- Rotary Youth Leadership Camp, Ulverstone (7 days)
- Self-Nominated x two opportunities (\$550 each)
- Young Endeavour (must be under 23 years old)
- United Kingdom (April – June)
- Norway (up to three months)
- Sweden (up to three months)
- Switzerland (up to three months)
- New Zealand (subject to confirmation) June – July (3-8 weeks) focusing on Fieldays & Young Farmers Conference.





**JAKE WILLIAMS**

*Club* North Motton

*Age* 21

*Demonstration:*

The procedure and safety behind connecting a trailer to vehicle.

*Tour Won:* Young Endeavour



**BABETTE MCCONNON**

*Club* Oatlands

*Age* 26

*Demonstration:*

The art and technique behind your cup of coffee and Napkin folding!

*Tour Won:* United Kingdom



**AMANDA BAYLES**

*Club* Westmorland

*Age* 27

*Demonstration:*

The technique and insight to the art of milking dairy cows, life as a dairy farm manager- with guest mascot & demonstrator "Bessie the Udder!"

*Tour Won:* USA



**ANDREA WHITE**

*Club* Westmorland

*Age* 17

*Demonstration:*

Explanation of the breed and characteristics of the Australian Kelpie Sheep dog.

*Tour Won:* RYLA



**PHILLIPA GREEN**

*Club* Sorell

*Age* 27

*Demonstration:*

A medical demonstration using a Sphygmomanometer (blood pressure monitor – manual process)!

*Tour Won:* Canada



# Top Teams

Top Teams has come and gone again, we had a fun day at Quercus Rural Youth Park in Carrick decorating cupcakes, building towers, playing dress ups and practicing first aid. There were also some great outfits that the best dressed team chose to wear!

This year there were four teams entered; one from Kingborough Huon; one from Central Highlands; one from the Dorset area; and one from North Motton.

We started the day with a scavenger hunt, followed by a cake decorating module where we saw some very interesting animals take shape. This was followed on by the relay race where team members skipped, ran and rolled up a swag in the fastest time. A lot of laughs completing this one!

After lunch we got stuck into the first aid module where each team was given a different scenario and surprisingly all that competed were great at thinking on their feet and showed great team work and skills. The teams were also asked to make an item of clothing out of 3 different garbage bags and some string. This was also a laugh some very creative items of clothing. The next module of the day was a different one where teams had to navigate around a course of water bottles knocking them over with a tennis ball in a stocking attached to the head so in a swinging motion had to knock the bottles over in the fastest time. This was the funniest of the modules and everyone had a ball (Literally!). The last module of the day was the public speaking module where I had asked the team members to come up with a song or chant to tell us more about their teams and present to the judges at the end of the day. Each team participated in this, and I must say the "Moot the Possum" has stuck with me!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Southern Region who put on the BBQ for lunch all, the competitors for taking the time to come along and compete on the day, the help from the girls at head office and Amanda Bayles. It is greatly appreciated and a HUGE thank you to my assistant Emma White and my judges who did a fantastic job! Thanks again to Nerinda McConnon, Chenae Simpson and Aleta Jones.

1<sup>st</sup> place was Central Highlands, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Kingborough Huon 3<sup>rd</sup> was North Motton and best dressed team went to Kingborough Huon.

**Emma Rayner**  
**Top Teams Director 2015**



## Young Farmer

In mid-July saw the start of the Young Farmer Competition with run offs held in each region where there was 24 competitors taking part. They were each required to complete three modules supplied by me, state co-ordinator which each person around the state was doing, including a quiz, finance regarding a sheep feedlot and extracting information about the Bass Strait Passenger rebate scheme, and then each region was responsible to set a minimum of another three modules which could be a bit more hands on. This gave all 24 competitors a broad range of skill test that would possibly be in the final.



Congratulations to the following who took part in the Young Farmer Run offs held on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2015

Alex White	Meg Kluver-Jones	Rosie Forsyth
Alicia Glatte	Mikey Pearson	Ryan Langley
Andrea White	Peter Damen	Sam Larder
Brigid Worldon	Phillip Downham	Sophie Murfett
Dale Hayers	Phillipa Green	Steven Jones
Ethan Williams	Renee Latham	Tobias tenBensel
Korey Stratton	Richard Petrie	Tom Parry
Martin McConnon	Ricky Edson	Will McConnon

Next step was the state finals on the 12th of September for the top 15. Congratulations to the following whom made it to the finals:

## Young Farmer Competitors



Amanda Bayles  
YF Coordinator



Peter Damen



Prue Dennis  
State President



Ricky Edson



Phillipa Green



Dale Hayers



Ethan Williams



Ryan Langley



Sam Larder



Will McConnon



Martin  
McConnon



Mikey Pearson



Richard Petrie



Tobias tenBensel



Andrea White



Meg Kluver-Jones



Brigid Worldon



## Young Farmer Competitors & Judges



On the day finalists were challenged with the following modules:

**Animal Welfare judged by Lyndon Iles, past member – module co-winners Meg Kluver-Jones & Sam Larder, *module sponsor farmmachinerysales.com***

Competitors were challenged with a number of animal welfare topics to answer and provide reasons

**ATV judged by Colin Berne – module co-winners Tobias tenBensil & Will McConnon, *module sponsor Polaris***

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

**Challenge judged by Michael Gordon, Past State President – module winner Meg Kluver-Jones, *module sponsor Tasweld***

Competitors were required to within a 30 minute time frame use a bag sewer to sew a bag, then load 20 on to a pallet, load the pallet on the trailer, hook on to mini bus, manoeuvre around the course and back trailer in to position, unload pallet, unstack pallet and un-sew bag. Then to finish off 'milk the cow' a life size wooden cow kindly borrowed from the Longford Show Society.

**Home Ec judged by Laura Richardson, Past State President – module winner Meg Kluver-Jones, *module sponsor Brand Developers***

Competitors were required to cook eggs three ways, poached, fried and hard boiled

**Fencing judged by Heath Dobson, a previous Young Farmer Winner – module winner Ryan Langley, *module sponsor Blackwoods***

Competitors were required complete a small strain between two posts and answer questions about fencing and straining methods

**Finance judged by Sam Dobson, a previous Young Farmer Director – module winner Mikey Pearson, *module sponsor Kennedys Welding Supplies***

Competitors were faced with a variety of real life banking situations to solve

**Sheep judged by Lance Baily, past member – module winner Will McConnon, *module sponsor Australian Weaving Mills***

Competitors were required to assemble a handpiece and then watch and learn how to crutch a sheep and then do one themselves.

**Shooting judged by Bracknell Gun Club – module co-winners Peter Damen & Tobias tenBensil, *module sponsor Tassie Instant Marquees***

Competitors visited the Bracknell Gun Club as a group to start the day and shot 5 shots standing and 5 shots sitting in to paper targets.

**Water, supplied by David Armstrong, judged by Rob Bayles, a Previous Young Farmer Winner – module winner Richard Petrie, *module sponsor Australian Chainsaw Products***

A resource that we can't go without, competitors answered questions about how much it takes to grow a variety of crops, how much is applied by different irrigation and how much animals need.

**Whole Farm Plan judged by Nikki Atkins, a previous Young Farmer Director – module winner Richard Petrie, *module sponsor Vermeer***

Competitors answered questions about how the particular farm was set up and also got their hands dirty playing with different soil types.

The evening dinner was the formal part of the day with the top six being announced. For the first time in many years it was an all-male final consisting of:

Martin McConnon

Mikey Pearson

Peter Damen

Richard Petrie

Tobias tenBensil

Will McConnon

They were then required to complete a quiz and perform a public speaking topic. Thanks to a number of people for helping with a fantastic range of questions for the quiz and for Sam Dobson, Eric Hutchison & Ian McKenzie for judging the public speaking

#### **Quiz winners**

Richard Petrie & Will McConnon

#### **Public Speaking co - winners**

Martin McConnon



This was now down to the final announcement of the winner of the 2015 Australian Chainsaw Products Young Farmer of the Year Competition and who would take home the major prize of a Polaris quad bike, and part of the \$25,000 prize pool.

A huge congratulations to the winners listed in order

1. Will McConnon
2. Martin McConnon
3. Peter Dame
4. Mikey Pearson
5. Richard Petrie
6. Tobias tenBensil

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 and a number of module sponsors. Without our wonderful sponsors the day would not be what it was.

Thank you also 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 to, on the day and packing up was very much appreciated. Congratulations to Southern Region for putting on a top Great Gatsby night.

**Amanda Bayles**

**Young Farmer Co-ordinator 2015**



# Website

I have had the task of looking after the Rural Youth website for a number of years now and have spent a couple of those years trying to create a new website that would work for what we needed.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that 2015 saw Rural Youth Tasmania release the new look website to the world! We still have the same web address – [www.ruralyouth.com.au](http://www.ruralyouth.com.au) but with some great new features. What we now have is a fresh new look, that is simple, clean easy to understand and able to be formatted for all types of devices – computer, mobile and tablets.

Thank you to Walker Designs who have helped us to create our new website and have provided training and ongoing support to ensure our website was exactly what we wanted it to be.

In late 2015 we released the online membership portal will allow potential members to sign up immediately at Agfest rather than filling in forms etc. It will streamline the process much quicker and may allow us to actually increase members due to the process being easier. At Agfest it will mean rather than weeks of time between Agfest and us contacting potential members that we can sign them up straight away, then and there!

Our members are able to sign up to the organisation or renew their membership online and make the payment in two steps rather than having to rely on paper cards to fill out. The website also has an interested member section where people can register their interest straight away rather than having to contact the office or go through a lot of other steps. This seems to be working well from what we can see, as the office is forwarding these automatically generated emails to club Presidents to ensure follow up happens with the potential member also.

We have created a link with the website that has our all our media releases which we can then link to our Facebook page to create more website traffic there. By providing a small snippet on Facebook and then people having to go to the website to read the whole article seems to be working well.

The website will continue to be a work in progress to ensure that all information is current and remains simple and provides a good overview rather than full of information that outdates very easily.

**Simone Hayers**  
**Website Director 2015**

# CLUB & REGION REPORTS

## Southern Region

Southern Region has had a busy twelve months, engaging with clubs within our region – networking and socialising along the way!

The 2015 Committee were;

<b>President</b>	Kate Coad
<b>Vice President</b>	Richard Allwright
<b>Secretary</b>	Nicole Elliott
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kaysie Wood

With each of the delegates from clubs forming our region, and those taking on supportive positions within our group in order to provide activities along the way.

Special thanks to each of the State Council delegates from Region for their input towards 2015 Rural Youth Council; Kaysie Wood, Emma Rayner, Sam Larder, Alex White and Dale Hayers.

A friendly facebook chat trying to work out whose house to go to for a BBQ, turned into **Swag Slumber at Levendale Hall!** None of us expected this event to be as wonderful as it was, just a simple concept with minimal planning and such a great turn out of people! We had so much fun, the decision was to run a second Swag Slumber on 31<sup>st</sup> October Halloween themed!

Many thanks to the students at Sorell Farm School, and their teacher, Lyn Murfet, for allowing us to use their facilities and alpacas for the Young Farmer run offs – special well done to Will McConnon for taking out first place. Also to Mikey Pearson and Tobias tenBensel (southern region members) on placing in the top six! Our region was host to the Young Farmer Dinner held at Quercus Park. A social night at Pontville saw this event themed Great Gatsby – thanks Rob Shoobridge & Bree House for this suggestion! What a fun theme to work with! Special thanks to Kaysie Wood, Ebony McConnon, Prue Dennis and Simone Hayers for assisting with the theming of this event and set up/pack up. Extra special thanks to our barmen of the evening, who even complied with our theme; Ben Salter and Jade Hall- we appreciate your support to our Organisation!

In closing, I started out in Rural Youth many years ago, with the first “official role” I took on being Southern Region President, now at 30, to have just completed my final year on Southern Region as Region President, this was the perfect ending to my time within Rural Youth Tasmania as a financial member. My view of Regions are; the Region are the heart of the Organisation, connecting to the arms (Members) of the Organisation and the brain (Council & RAC) with the stomach being (Agfest). Regions is that place that connects the membership world to the next level, open doors and greater experiences. It was the start of my Rural Youth career and hopefully the starting place for many more members in that perfect stepping stone to each avenue of this wonderful Organisation we are all part of.

I wish the incoming 2016 committee all the very best – this is your time – go for it!

Kind Regards

Kate Coad

**Southern Region President**





## North West Region

2015 had been a full on year for the North West region!!

We held numerous events throughout the year, including the region runoffs for young farmer. This saw numerous members make it to the finals.

The annual state ball was the North wests responsibility for 2015 and was held at the Ulverstone surf club in June. The night went off with no issues and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The tail end of the year has been pretty quiet but a lot of great ideas are being thought of behind the scenes.

Hopefully 2016 goes just as well for everyone!

Thanks,

**Jake Williams**  
**North West Region President 2015**



# North Region

Hello from Northern Region!

2015 was a quiet year for us. It was our turn to host State AGM at Hadspen, which was planned and organised by Brad Lindsay and Amanda Bayles.

We held our region general meeting in March and elected a new leadership team, with Laura Smith, Rosie Forsyth, Prue Dennis, and Amanda Bayles taking on the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively.

In July, we organised and ran the Young Farmer run-offs at Quercus Park, with competitors building fences and sewing buttons for a chance to compete in the state final. We would like to congratulate the Young Farmer winner, Will McConnon on taking out the 2015 title!

In closing, a massive thank you to everybody who contributed in some way to the success of 2015, and we look forward to an exciting 2016, strengthening and supporting our clubs and hosting the Young Farmer of the Year dinner.

Thanks

**Northern Region!**





## Central Highlands

Another year has flown on by, with many good times had throughout the year. We started the year with a hunger to get this club back up and running and go all in or nothing! This has seen us in newspapers, on the radio, attending breakfast with the PM, and so many more meetings and events.

Our trivia night was a huge success for our first major fundraiser of the year, as well as the Ouse Craft Fair and Bush Fest in Bothwell. We are lucky to have such great community support and support from big names in parliament.

We have also signed up Agribusiness manager Lee Campbell. Lee came on board as a sponsor of our club and can't do enough for us which again is exciting for a new club. We started the year with only 8 members or so and now have 20 financial and active members and new members keen to sign up in January!

Agfest snuck up on us where we had 4 of our members attend and take on roles such as: waste management, back ticket box, and car parking. All members had a ball at Agfest and are keen to go back next year with some new members keen to put their hand up. We have a few members in a role next year which is exciting with Anthony taking on assistant catering, Emma taking on assistant treasurer, Nathan taking on assistant power and Jake taking on assistant traffic management as well as the others who are keen to give car parking a go.

We were lucky enough to hire a bus which we drove up to Ulverstone for State Ball this year. Our vice president Samantha Larder won best previous member, our secretary Emma Rayner took out best new member and President Anthony Franklin winning best dressed male for the evening. We had a great night dressing up at the ball and challenging our friends from North Motton the next day to a round at the go karts on the way home.

September saw the Young Farmer Competition well done to Samantha Larder on winning the animal welfare module, also well done Phil Downham and Steven Jones for entering but unfortunately not making the finals. Well done to Will McConnon on winning Young Farmer of the year 2015.

October we had members attend the shooting competition in Bracknell. Well done Phil and Sam who landed a second and a third in some events.

November was soon here and we were sadly saying good bye to member Callie Barber who was moving to Wagga in New South Wales to continue her journey in Agribusiness Study. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Our final social event for 2015 was our club camping/Christmas party we decided to head to Cluny where we went camping for the weekend. Everything from shooting, to fishing, to quads and races in blow up horses and dinosaur's happened and a fun weekend was had by all. It was a good way to end a very busy and successful year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping us as a new club. Everyone has been so helpful and supportive, and we are keen to give it our all and come back stronger and have an even better 2016.

**Emma Rayner**

**Secretary- Treasurer Central Highlands**



## Dorset

Yet again another year is over, this year has been pretty quiet for us. This year we welcomed new members Morgan Barnett, Darcy Nickelson, Larissa Godfrey and welcomed back Cameron and Elliot Sykes after a few years off.

Dorset members were seen out and about at these Rural Youth functions throughout the year: Young Farmer Dinner, Young Farmer Competition, Top Teams Even, Agfest Dinner, and Agfest itself as volunteers/committee members.

Young Farmer and Top Teams came around pretty quick this year, although this year we couldn't get a team together Cameron and I attended and we joined up with Alisha Glatte and Callum Wood to make a team. Once again it was a great day to be a part of, full of many exciting/funny challenges.

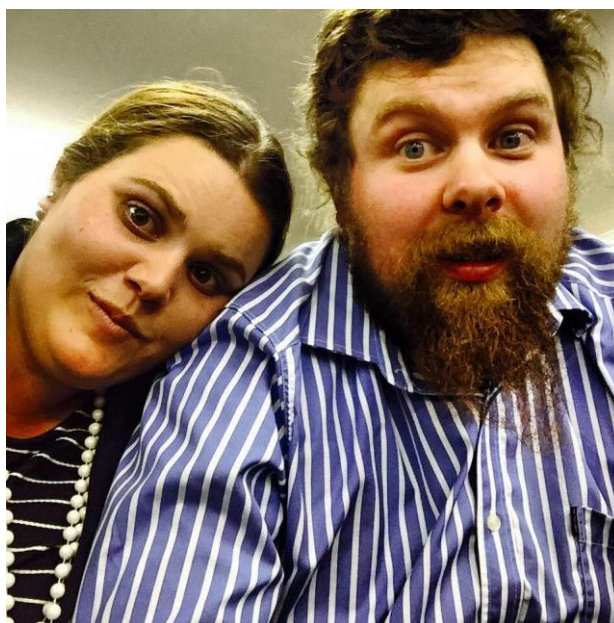
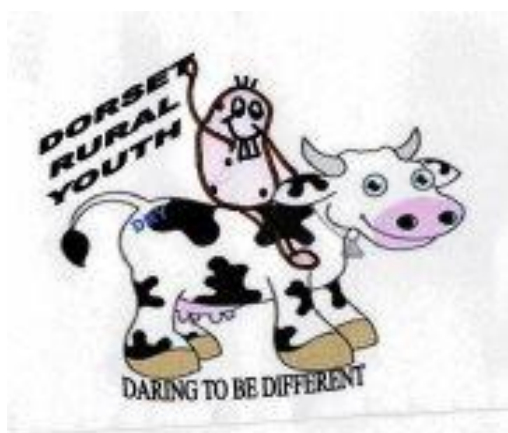
A huge congrats goes to Richo who entered in the Young Farmer Competition and in the end came 5<sup>th</sup>. Well done!!

This year we held Dorset Damnation although we didn't get the numbers we hoped for. Everyone who attended had a great night. Big thanks to past member Aleta Jones for all her help to get damnation up and running again. We really appreciate all your help and hard work.

We held many social activities throughout the year including laser tag sessions, camping trip, bbqs

A big thank you to every member for helping me out during the year. Thanks Brodie, Alison and Richard stepping up to hold a position within the club for the 2015 year. Look forwards to working with you all next year

**Jessica-Rose Forsyth**  
**Dorset Club President 2015**



# Kingborough Huon

Wow, another year is over and it has been a fun one!

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth has had a fantastic 2015. We have had lots of members attending meetings, we had lots of members helping out at the Huon Show, members support our Relay for Life fundraising barbecue at Mitre 10 and lots of members representing our club on the on the various Rural Youth/Agfest committees.

Our year started when we held our Club Annual General Meeting to elect our new position holders. The committee for KH RY for 2015 was comprised of

President –	Nicole Elliott
Vice President –	Kaysie Wood
Secretary –	Simone Hayers
Treasurer –	Kaysie Wood

In 2015, our members decided we would check out the Hobart Cup and hired a marquee space to use. This proved to be very popular and a great day was had by all.

Our year then continued with State AGM in February, up north in Longford. We would like to thank all members who found friends to join so we could have the numbers for the meeting! Congratulations to outgoing State President Simone Hayers on her two terms as President and the Rural Youth Council committee that worked with her during this time.

Congratulations to Prue on becoming the incoming State President and our Kingborough Huon members that made up Rural Youth Council for 2015. After the Annual General Meeting a lot of people went and had a good night at Powranna Rodeo.

Agfest 2015 came up quickly and KH had almost all the club up there at some point which is impressive! We had lots of members that had roles and then others who simply volunteered their time to help out. All efforts are greatly appreciated even if it was for just five minutes; it was a break that someone else got to enjoy!

Agfest dinner soon followed, which saw a few members road trip up to the dinner at Quercus. It was a great night with lots of fun and new friendships made.

Following Agfest dinner there was State Ball. Unfortunately only a small few making the road trip to the North West Coast. Congratulations to all the members that took our study tour awards!

We had members attend the Agfest Annual Meeting where we saw our own member Kate Coad take on the role as Agfest Chairperson for 2016. Congratulations Kate and we wish you all the best for the coming 12 months. Congratulations to our all members that have taken on roles for Agfest 2016:

Kate Coad –	Agfest Chairperson
Kaysie Wood –	Assistant Exhibitors



Simone Hayers –	Craft
Nicole Elliott –	Assistant Craft
Dale Hayers –	Merchandise
Bree House –	Promotions
Nick Bisset –	PA & Assistant Central Arena
Caelum Wood –	Central Arena
Chloe Kemp -	Assistant Equine
Tobias tenBensel –	Loading & Lifting
Joel Davey -	Assistant Loading & Lifting
Steven Jones	Assistant Car Parks

Our focus then turned to the Southern Region Young Farmer Run Off's which were held at the Sorell School Farm. Congratulations must go to our members Meg Kluver Jones, Tobias tenBensel, Dale Hayers and Mikey Pearson for getting through to Young Farmer Final.

September bought the Young Farmer Finals, congratulations to Mikey and Tobias for making it through to the top 6, taking home some amazing prizes. It was a great day watching members have fun with Rural Roundup and Top Teams.

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth had one team comprised of Mariah, Richard, Alex and Chloe in the Top Teams Competition and had a very enjoyable day!

Rural Roundup was coordinated by our members Simone, who along with six other Rural Youth members, entered to produce some amazing entries ranging from photography through to woodwork etc.

The Young Farmer Dinner was organised this year by Southern Region Rural Youth, thank you to Kate, Kaysie and Ebony who along with many other helping hands pulled off a great evening, with a Great Gatsby theme!

After the Young Farmer Dinner, we held our first Mitre 10 BBQ which went well and we have another booked for next year. We have used the barbecues to raise funds for our Relay for Life team in 2016. If you are interested in donating, please check out our Facebook page on how to do that!

September also saw 10 of our members (and mostly first timers) donate blood at the blood bank in Hobart. We received some really positive feedback and some really good promotion from this effort. We had have many members continue to donate blood on a regular basis. Some of our members didn't copy very well with the donating blood, but rest assured they are ok!

From September, our momentum didn't stop! We were busy preparing for the Huon Show which saw another great year! Lots of utes were entered in the ute competition, lots of dogs in the dog high jump competition and our animal nursery as popular as ever.

After the Huon Show we helped Kate Coad celebrate her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kate, we hope you had an amazing night surrounded by friends and family. We certainly enjoyed celebrating with you! We will be sad to see you leave us at KH RY, but we know we still have another 11 months left!!

From there, our club members slowed down and enjoyed the Christmas/New Year break in preparation for another busy year!

Before finishing our report we would to add:

- Congratulations to Simone and Ben on their engagement in October and wish them all the very best for the wedding preparations.
- Congratulations to Meg Kluver Jones for finishing her university degree in Engineering
- Congratulations to Bree House for finishing her university degree in Business
- We were very excited to welcome home from Canada, Owen Woolley who loved his exchange so much, he went back again!

We wish all our members a fantastic 2016 and remind all Rural Youth members to get a boot out of life!

### Kingborough-Huon Club



## King Island

Late in 2015 saw the formation of the newest rural youth club, King Island!

North West Region President, Jake Williams and former Agfest Chairman, Amanda Bayles both travelled to King Island to help with AGM proceedings and to welcome new members to the organisation.

The team for 2016 includes:

Club President; Joshua Taylor

Club Vice President; Josie Wright

Treasurer; Paige Maree Williams

Secretary; Chloe Watson

The club has formed a friendship with the Lions Club on the Island, who have enabled us to learn some new skills on running an event.

We helped to serve 400+ people all a free meal on Australia day and had the opportunity to raffle off a joy flight over our beautiful Island.

We are working towards some community events of our own as well. King Island rural youth also hope to make it to some of the state events as well as Agfest!

Thanks.

### King Island Club





# North Motton

G'day Everyone!!

North Motton has had a great year, with the club picking up a few new members. Our annual animal nursery at the Ulverstone show was a success with us holding a raffle, and working with the show committee to make the day one to remember.

We also was asked by a local endurance ride to hold a canteen in July with the help of some donations and some great local business we made the day a successful one.

We are currently in the process of organising a couple of new club functions to make 2016 another memorable year for North Motton.

Thanks.

## North Motton Club



# Oatlands

It's been a fairly busy year for us all!

January: saw us holding a pool party for Australia Day at the local public pool. Great day! Will be doing it as an annual thing!

February - April: Saw us have a couple of social nights out at Noah's and Barilla Putt and Play, and plenty of action with majority of our members involved in Agfest!

May: Agfest came and went. Phil, Ebony, Patricia, Will and Babette all helped out. Was fantastic!

Rod, Ebony and Patricia went and helped out car parking for the Post Vintage Car Club Picnic at Ross. We also held our Ute Competition at the Campbell Town Show with 12 Utes attending!

Southern Region hosted a Slumber Party at Levendale, a few of our members attended this for a great night out, without technology!

June: Saw a few of our members attend Agfest AGM and Agfest Dinner! We had a great night!

State ball was also held during June, Babette was lucky enough to receive a study tour to the UK for next year! Congratulations!

July - September: saw a few members be accepted in to the Agfest committee for 2016, congratulations Phil, Patricia, Brandon and Ebony! Patricia, Ebony and Babette attended Brainstorming at Quercus and got a lot out of it!

October: Another southern region slumber party was held! Another great night!

November: Melton Mowbray rodeo was held, we helped out with car parking! Great day! Ice cold with bits of rain to hot sun then freezing frosty 0° night!

December: End of the year already! At the December Agfest meeting Ebony was voted in on the Agfest Executive Committee! Congratulations!!!

We also held our AGM, our office bearers are:

President and Treasurer: Ebony McConnon

Vice President and Secretary: Patricia Carter

Along with Ebony and Patricia, Phil McConnon was elected to be a southern region delegate.

Congratulations all and good luck for 2016!



Our goals for 2016 are:

- to hold a rural youth member based only event
- to build on memberships
- to get out in to our local community of the southern midlands

Thanks all and hope you have had a fantastic 2015 and we look forward to the fun filled 2016 ahead!

### Oatlands Club

"Always in the Middle of it"



## Sorell

2015 for Sorell was one of gains and losses. The AGM saw an excited and enthusiastic bunch of people elected to take on positions within the club. The year was roughly planned out, so to show the younger members when some of the state events happen. A few members had to relocate for work in 2015 and this saw a reduction in our members

Sorell was asked by Roberts to do a free BBQ for their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations at Cambridge. Phillipa (club president) and past member Simon, had a good day, selling soft drink and getting our presence back into the community.

Phillipa was again able to make it into the top 15 for Young Farmer and was also awarded a Study Tour at State Ball. Congratulations!!

We are hoping 2016 will be a positive for Sorell and build on our small, but committed member base.

Thanks must go to Izzy Scott as Vice President, and Simone Hayers for her continued support.

Thanks,

**Sorell Club**



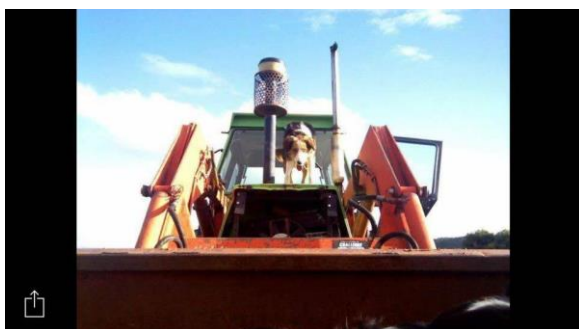


# Tamar

The club had quite a year with our members taking part in Young Farmer and Rural roundup. One of our members took out Rural round up as overall winner.

Our members have help with some local farmers with hay carting and fencing repairs.

This year our members all volunteered at Agfest also with working bees in the lead up to the event. All were kept busy working amongst the hustle and bustle. The traffic guys were out on the Bass Highway, we helped on main gate with security checking the incoming exhibitors, and keeping the kids entertained in KAAP dressed as Jessie the cowgirl out of Toy Story.



## Western Tiers

The first Wednesday of October 2015 saw the rebirth of the Western Tiers Rural Youth club. With a small start of 4 people, Western Tiers have been working hard over the past few months to get back to the great club in the community that it once was. Increasing membership and community engagement was our number one goal.

Our first event, a bon fire was held out on a local farm near Deloraine, where we saw a lot of community members come along to find out more about our little growing club, as well as many current Rural Youth members from the greater Meander Valley area come along and support the new club.

With the club only just restarting, the first event that the club was engaged with was the annual Rural Youth Shooting competition held at Bracknell. Considering the club was all of a few days old, three out of four of our members attended, with the Cresswell brothers showing other clubs how it's done, and taking out the lead position in both the rifle target and clay bird target comps.

With the start of 2016, the Western Tiers Rural Youth club gained a new executive team as well as a new drive and commitment to the club, with our member intake increasing significantly, and many ideas for future events coming along and developing strongly.

The first major event in the planning for Western Tiers Rural Youth is a fishing competition, to be held on the 20th of March on a local property at Dunolan. This will be the first of many official events for the club, with the aim to engage local community members as well as rural youth members from surrounding areas to come along, have a great day and learn more about our little club. It is hoped that this event, along with others in the planning stages will be able to become annual events for the club.

From small beginnings and a very busy past few months, Western Tiers Rural Youth club has thrived under its executive team, members and community support. It is hoped that the club will be able to regain its once powerful status in the Meander Valley area, working with other surrounding clubs to bring back some of the great events of years past.

We hope for another busy year to come, and look forward to what the future holds for our little growing club.

### Western Tiers Club





## Westmorland

Westmorland Rural Youth, one of the oldest clubs in the organisation had a very quiet year this year, membership remained stable with our club still organising our annual ute competition at the Longford Show and assisted in the Animal nursery. Kicking off the year saw the coming and passing of the AGM being held in Northern Region, at Riverlands Church in Longford, where it saw the election of Prue of the New State President. As the year progressed, so did the events that came and went. First cab off the rank was the Study Tours Selection weekend where 2 of our members were put through their paces, to take home their respective tours, Amanda being awarded an international Tour to the United States, and Andrea White being selected for the RYLA weekend. From there came the State Ball weekend hosted by North West Region, a great night was had by those who attended with the announcements of the Study Tours, the highlight of the night's events.

With the passing of this weekend came the finals weekend of the Young farmer competition where there were a few members in the top 15, in heavy contention for the esteemed prize. Congratulations to Will McConnon for taking out the very deserving title.

Along came October and so did the Shooting completion where members Andrea, Amanda, Jye and Prue competed. Andrea took out the .22 Rifle, with Prue taking out the Shotgun. Congratulations to the girls for showing how it's done.

Westmorland again this year had many members holding positions on various committees over the year. Amanda Bayles saw out her third year as Agfest Chair person, the first chairperson to have sat for 3 continuous years. Congratulations must go to Amanda for a successful 3 years as chair. Amanda has also sat on State Council, has been the Young Farmer Co-ordinator and has been involved in Northern Region and taken on the treasurer role. Prue Dennis was elected as State President at the Annual General Meeting in February and has seen the year out. In July last year Prue was also awarded a Study Tour to the UK of which she undertook from mid-April to the end of May this year. Laura Smith joined the ranks of Westmorland this year, after moving across from North Esk Club. Laura has been an integral member not only for the club, but also in holding the president position on Northern Region, and holding a position on State Council.

This year also saw a number of members hold positions on the Agfest Committee, State Council and Northern Region. Austin Britnell, Andrea White, Brad Lindsay and Luke Reid were those members who gave their time beyond the cause. In February, we will bid one of our member's farewell, as they head back home to the mainland. Thank you Austin for your contributions made over the last 2 years.

Thank you to each and every one of our members for your contributions made over the last year, and your continuing efforts for the organisation.

We look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Thanks,

Westmorland



# Rural Business Tasmania

Now entering its 30th year of delivering the Rural Financial Counselling Service, 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 agribusinesses across Tasmania.

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.

### **Business, Financial and Administration Management Services**

Business and Financial Management Services assists rural and regional businesses to better understand and manage their business and financial position.

The service includes:

Business plan development

Succession Planning

Financial position assessment and explanation

Budgets and cash flow forecasting

Advocacy for enterprises needing to adjust

Loan and/or refinance applications

Impartial support and mediation including negotiation with creditors and financial institutions



From a day-to-day operation perspective the service also offers book keeping and business administration support to individuals and businesses that either do not have the time, resources and/or expertise to efficiently and effectively manage this essential business function.

## **These support services include:**

Invoicing and accounts receivable

Bill paying and accounts

Bank reconciliation

Monthly financial reports

Filing

Letter writing

Drawing upon its own understanding of the challenges facing the not-for-profit (NFP) sector, Rural Business Tasmania now offers its expertise and support to other NFPs primarily with secretariat and board administration support services.

### **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 recognises that small business continues to be 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.

In 2015 Rural Business Tasmania retained its Federal Rural Financial Counselling Service funding and was reinstated as the State's service provider through to 30 June 2019. The growth of its fee-for-service division, incorporating individual client and project based industry sector partnership initiatives, is bringing to life the business model that will 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.

## Rural Youth Sponsors



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*Habitat Plants*





## Annual Report 2015

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