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RURAL  YOUTH

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RURAL YOUTH POSITIONS

PATRON

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

RURAL YOUTH BOARD

State President - Mr Jake Williams

Vice President - Ms Ashleigh Reynolds

Agfest Chairman - Mr Ethan Williams

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Dylan Bellchambers

Mr Rhett McKenzie-Edwards

Mr Dale Hayers

Mrs Ashley Evans

Mr Owen Woolley

Mr Brady Robins

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Matthew Crane

Mr Matthew Young

Ms Sharon Symons

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)

Mr Chris Williams

Mr Graeme Tole (dec.)

Mrs Carol Axton

Mr D. Bennett (dec.)

Ms Elizabeth Skirving

Mr T.B. Stancombe (dec.)

Ms Sharon (Wing) Symons

Mr David Dunn

Mr John Dent

Mr Henry Burbury

Mr Brett Mackenzie

Mr Don Walker

Mr Peter Gladwell

Mr Ian Mackenzie

Mr Noel Beven

Mr E.C. Mackay (dec.)

Mr Paul Bennett

Mr C.A. Holland (dec.)

Mr Dale Badcock

Mrs Jayne (Badcock) Clark

Mr Wesley Hazell

Mr Keith Topfer (dec.)

Mr Darryl Barker

Mr Richard Colman

RURAL YOUTH STAFF

CEO - Karen Robinson

Finance Officer - Linda Perkins

Events & Sponsorship Manager - Selena Flanagan

Agfest Support - Kylie Mackrill

Office Administrator - Luci Scott

Quercus Caretaker - Jade Hall

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



It is with great pride I represent the organisation as the State President. It has been a long-time dream of mine and ever since I took on North Motton club president back in 2012 I have always strived to gain knowledge and respect to be able to take on this role.

It has been an honour to lead this organisation into the next decade and I couldn't be any prouder of everyone involved, from the secretaries in our clubs, our Board directors and Agfest committee members to our amazing and loyal staff that keep our office and Quercus Park running in a straight line!

I had many goals coming into this role and the biggest stand out to me was to attend as many club meetings as I could. Every club is different and have their own ways to operate so it wasn't a visit to tell them right or wrong but to have a conversation about where I started and how each member can utilise the benefits Rural Youth offer and where they can lead you. It has been a pleasure attending the clubs' social activities and meetings where we can all get to know everyone and lessen the social gap between levels of Rural Youth. Member numbers also hit over

the 200 mark again which is awesome to see. It is great to see that Rural Youth is still solid in Tasmania with the newly re-formed Tasman club now up and running and I can't wait to see where Tyson and his team can lead it.

Rural Youth offer a range of different training opportunities and in December we had our members engage in an emerging leaders workshop held at Quercus Park. This was led by facilitators from University College, Susie Bower and Robyn Freeman who shared their knowledge on a wide range of interesting and varied topics relating to leadership. Several local business leaders came along to tell their stories and have a chat afterwards. There were some fun leadership activities to participate in and all who attended walked away with some valuable skills. Again, in March we held an EWP training weekend where several members gained their licences which will not only assist them personally but provide suitably qualified personnel for jobs come Agfest time.

It has been a long-term vision that Quercus Park will be a central community hub in Northern Tasmania. Early in 2019 we were lucky enough to have been granted \$100,000 from the Building Better Regions Fund that the Australian Government had released. We engaged local contractors and now have a fully completed purpose-built accommodation unit located behind



definitely trying times, but Rural Youth are known to pull together and excel under pressure and with assistance from the Tasmanian Government this led us to the first “Agfest in the Cloud”. The success went way beyond our expectations and to see over 1 million website page visits was outstanding. I commend everyone involved from our Agfest Chairman to our Advisory members who were on the end of the phone day and night assisting where they could!

As our Organisation continues to find its feet in this new world, I would like to personally thank my fellow board members who are always committing 110% to future proof our position in Tasmania. This organisation would not be where we are without our great team of office staff and our caretaker out on site. They all put their personal lives on hold while we worked through the biggest stepping stone we have ever faced, you all are worth your weight in gold and I cannot thank you enough for what you have done, your continual hard work and your dedicated passion for our organisation.

JAKE WILLIAMS
2019/2020 State President

the Function Centre. This means alongside our Function Centre Rural Youth now have accommodation and amenity facilities ready for hire. This not only aligns with our goals but also provides a great space for people to meet and have their events.

As the world faces the challenges of COVID-19, Rural Youth has had to adapt to a more online world. Not only did our Board and Agfest committees move to the online platform Zoom to conduct our business, clubs also had to move their meetings and events online to allow them to keep functioning. This went well with all clubs holding meetings and even a trivia night via the online platform.

2020 has undoubtedly been a challenging year with our well-known event Agfest, having to be cancelled. These were

“ It has been an honour to lead this organisation into the next decade and I couldn’t be any prouder of everyone involved, from the secretaries in our clubs, our Board directors and Agfest committee members to our amazing and loyal staff that keep our office and Quercus Park running in a straight line! ”



CEO REPORT

It is easy to focus on the negative, however it is important to remember much had been achieved prior to March 2020.

On the back of another successful Agfest we launched into the new financial year with optimism and determination. Members and staff worked hard on developing the 2020 – 2022 strategic plan for the organisation. As always, our vision and values were front of mind as we reviewed the previous plan and developed our new one. I am pleased to report we met three of the priorities from the 2017 – 2019 Plan (restructuring the organisation, continual improvement to safety processes and identifying new business opportunities). Some progress was made on the fourth, increasing engagement with secondary schools and people under the age of eighteen.

The timing of the official opening/completion of our accommodation building was somewhat timely - Senator Claire Chandler performed the official opening on February 28 and within days we were learning the impact of COVID-19 and heading for lockdown. Fortunately, we have had numerous hire enquiries for a variety of events during this time and we are looking forward to promoting the facility and accepting hires as restrictions are lifted.

In addition to Agfest 2020 in the paddock, COVID-19 has had an effect on many of our operations this year. Ashley Evans was a worthy recipient of the Graeme Tole Award, as were Study Tour recipients Mitch Beer and Ashleigh Reynolds, however due to the closure of borders they have been unable to travel and enjoy the benefits of their respective trips.

We had a slight rise in membership overall and all of our Clubs were up and about in their respective communities. Special mention goes to Hagley for the incredibly successful Rural Rumble in October and the crew on the peninsula for bringing Tasman back. During lockdown meetings went online and Clubs used their imaginations, holding virtual trivia and parmi nights, even Crib Room drinks.

We had some staff changes during the year, Max Griggs (Property Caretaker) retired and Ellie Fielding and Vicki O'Grady took opportunities elsewhere. To fill the breach, we "welcomed back" Jade Hall, Kylie Mackrill increased her hours and Luci Scott came on board. In another first for the organisation we closed the office and worked remotely for ten weeks, proving it can be done! Whilst we were pleased to return to York Street it did take a while to adjust to wearing shoes again!

The Rural Youth Board, Agfest Team and staff have been outstanding, dealing with issues and situations which give seasoned business leaders nightmares. As State President, Jake Williams has done an outstanding job, sacrificing time and effort, (not to mention hairline), to ensure members, staff and the organisation as a whole are well looked after. I have seen the toll this level of effort has taken on all of them at times, and I cannot thank each of you enough.

It is safe to say we are facing a huge challenge in the coming twelve months as we deal with financial loss and the uncertainty surrounding events and the economy. Rural Youth is nothing if not resilient, rest assured everyone is working hard on numerous scenarios to ensure the organisation's future.

I look forward to reporting positive outcomes in the next Annual Report.



KAREN ROBINSON
Rural Youth CEO



2020 - 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

**TO CONNECT, DEVELOP
AND CELEBRATE YOUNG TASMANIANS!**

OUR GOALS

RURAL YOUTH

Recognised as providing exceptional experiences & self development opportunities for our members

QUERCUS

A leading event & accommodation space in Tasmania

COMMUNITY

Rural Youth will continue to contribute to the development of rural communities and events within Tasmania.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Celebrate our members
- Improve engagement with our members
- Sell our story
- Support and work with Clubs
- Encourage & engage with under 18's

- Develop a masterplan for the future
- Improve member accommodation for the short and long term
- Grow and improve our existing events ie Young Farmer
- Identify new event opportunities

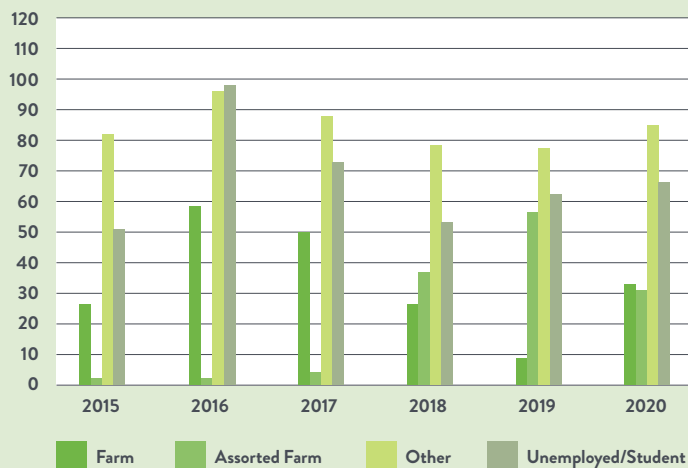
- Develop ideas & information for Clubs to use to contribute to their own communities
- Continue to explore appropriate partnerships to achieve positive outcomes for the community
- Assist other organisations where possible, with their events & activities

OUR VALUES

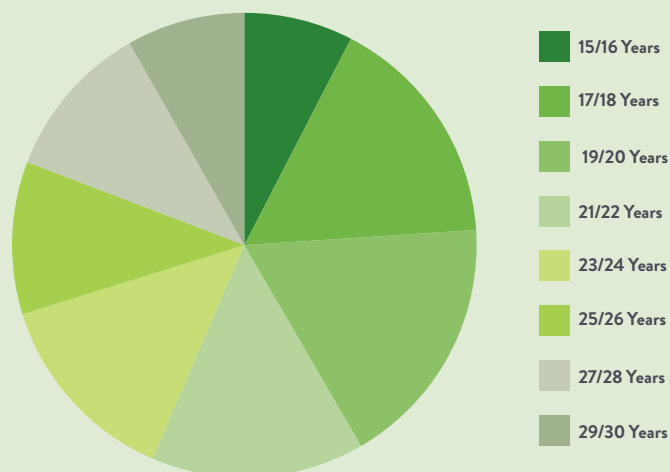
**FRIENDSHIPS & RELATIONSHIPS
SELF DEVELOPMENT & OPPORTUNITIES**

RY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBER OCCUPATIONS 2015-2020



2020 MEMBER AGES



CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS



CLUB MEMBERS	2019	2020
Brighton	14	21
Circular Head	9	8
Devonport	17	18
Hagley	32	26
Isolated Members	11	2
Kingborough-Huon	20	18
North Motton	15	25
Oatlands	9	14
Sorell	32	26
Tamar	14	19
Tasman	-	18
Western Tiers	10	12
Westmorland	14	11
YAPN	11	9
TOTAL:	208	227

AGFEST REPORT

My first year as Chairman was not what I expected, to say the least! I knew I would experience a lot of “firsts”, but never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be the first Chairman to cancel Agfest!

The decision was made knowing many in the community would be affected, not just our team and organisation. We know it was the right thing to do, but at the end of the day it was still heartbreaking. The team had worked hard, the site was full and we were literally in the final countdown to set up!

Time to recover from the cancellation was short lived, as we quickly moved into setting up Agfest in the Cloud. The first virtual Field Days in Australia! This project was made possible through a \$65,000 grant we received from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment. An online portal was incorporated into our existing Agfest website and 2020 Agfest exhibitors were given the opportunity to advertise their products and services at no cost. In three weeks, we launched the idea, Marcus from Walker Designs built the portal, Sarah Hirst and the Admin team worked flat out processing applications and helping our exhibitors with a myriad of issues, everything from taking great photos, establishing a Facebook presence to building websites. We received fantastic media coverage, particularly from the LAFM team! I can't thank all of them enough!

We were blown away with the results! Over the three weeks of the event we had 1,010,000 views, with 415,000 on the first day alone! More importantly, of the 400 exhibitors, 123 replied to our after-event survey, reporting sales of over \$890,000. Whilst

we know this is nowhere near the revenue generated from the paddock, under the circumstances it was a great success!

We are heading for a tough year. We are facing a lot of uncertainty as to what will and won't be allowed in May next year. We expect to be working on several scenarios, Agfest as usual, a socially distanced Agfest and, as a last resort a virtual Agfest. Due to this uncertainty, we have brought the Agfest Annual Meeting forward to July, so the team making the decisions is also delivering the event.

I hope my second year as Chairman is less eventful, I am looking forward to writing a report about fine weather, happy exhibitors and bumper crowds at Agfest 2021 in the next Annual Report.



ETHAN WILLIAMS
2020 Agfest Chairman



YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION

The 2019 TP Jones & Co Young Farmer of the Year competition was launched on the first day of Agfest. The challenge and bumper prize pool valued at \$40,000 attracted twenty competitors to Ashgrove Farm in July for the Runoffs.

It was great to see new and returning faces to the competition. Our twelve finalists were Kyle Barker, Matthew Bayles, Stuart Cresswell, Ashley Evans, Brodie Hill, Mathew Horswell, Ben Lane, Ryan Langley, Caitlin Radford, Tobias ten Bense, Cameron Willis and Lachlan Woodcock. We put them through their paces at Quercus in August. The modules for this competition were: Agronomy, Animal Handling, Assembly, Calibrations, Career Development, Fencing, Finance and First Aid. The final six then faced a Quiz and Public Speaking during dinner.

At the end of the evening Ashley Evans was the winner, with Brodie Hill runner up and Stuart Cresswell third.

We are extremely grateful to all of our wonderful sponsors, particularly the team from TP Jones & Co, our judges and the Bennett family for hosting Runoffs at Ashgrove.

PETER DAMEN

2019 Young Farmer Coordinator

2019 RESULTS YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION



WINNER
ASHLEY EVANS



RUNNER-UP
Brodie Hill



THIRD
Stuart Cresswell



FOURTH
Tobias ten Bense



FIFTH
Caitlin Radford



SIXTH
Lachlan Woodcock



To hear how the 2019 TP Jones & Co-Young Farmer of the Year Competition Finals went, visit www.ruralyouth.com.au





PMWG REPORT



Once again in 2019/2020, the Property Management Working Group has maintained a continued presence within the Rural Youth landscape. Post AGM, the group saw some new faces join the team, with Brady Robins and Jye Earnshaw taking on a joint role as Working Bee Coordinators.

Tobias ten Bensel and Liam King were the other new faces, with Matthew Wadley, Jake Williams, Owen Woolley and Dale Hayers continuing on with the group.

The purpose of the Property Management Working Group (PMWG) is to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on key developments at the Quercus Park and York Street sites. Strategic Planning of when and how such developments shall be rolled out is the other key function. This decision making process helps drive the manner in which working bees through the year are completed and how budgets for maintenance and upgrades should be spent.

Since its inception, PMWG has hosted all of its meetings via Zoom and so the functionality of the group was not impacted by the COVID-19 during 2019/2020. The ability to share screens and draw on the shared screen has led to open group discussion along the way, which speeds up the decision making and discussion.

Straight after AGM in September, some of the planned and budgeted jobs rolled out, including excavator hire to remove trees and tree stumps around the Quercus Park site to free up more space for Agfest sites, whilst also addressing safety access issues. These works were led by Owen, with assistance from Sam Pogorzelski.

Roof repairs at York Street were undertaken based on a hydraulic assessment of the roof as completed by Dale during 2019. The annual lime spreading works at Quercus Park were undertaken, this job now a calendar planned activity, budgeted for each year.

Throughout the year, discussion ranged from making the bin emptying process easier to the installation of an Audio Visual system for the Function Centre. The purchase of a new forklift was also identified as a key strategic consideration. All these items were recommended to the Board, with a new forklift arriving in June 2020, whilst the AV upgrade is scheduled for latter part of 2020.

Arguably the biggest project delivered by the group in 2019/20 was the connection of services to the ablution block and the install of the accommodation building. These works had been planned through 2018/19 and construction commenced in October 2019. PMWG oversaw plumbing and electrical tenders and provided advice to the building contractors. A number of key sponsorship agreements also saw the delivery of rainwater tanks and the installation of a new access road around the buildings.

Once contractors had completed their works, the members were allowed to have their own impact on the project, with a working bee held in February seeing around 20 members complete a range of tasks including traffic bollards installation, firefighting tank installation, fencing, gardening, painting, new doors installed to the ablution block and the pouring of a number of concrete pads for services. The passion and hard work through this working bee demonstrated the motivation the members have to improve the facilities that we share and to show-off the facilities at the official opening.

The official opening was completed on February 28, 2020 by Senator Claire Chandler. This was an exciting culmination of around 5 years of background work for Rural Youth. The opening

saw a number of politicians, contractors and local government representatives attend site and meet with members.

Unfortunately, the momentum of the Working Bee was quickly lost when the COVID-19 lockdown struck in March, with PMWG taking a back seat through the cancellation of Agfest and the subsequent fallout of the pandemic on RY operations. The lack of working bees meant that a number of outstanding tasks remain to be completed around the Accommodation building, but these are planned to be addressed, allowing the area to be hired from October 2020.

The lockdown and cancellation of Agfest however had some benefits. With no members or external stakeholders onsite through April-July, Property Caretaker Jade Hall was able to complete works to the Tullah Building; with improvements to this area identified as a key Rural Youth's Strategic Planning process completed in October 2019. Jade has completed the installation of new beds, painting and general upgrades to over half of the building, with the remainder planned for completion later in 2020.

All Agfest Carpark paddocks also saw upgrades completed. South was bladed to level holes and re-drilled with a new seed blend, whilst North was disked and re-sown. Over 10 tonnes of stones were removed during this process. Finally, parts of East Carpark were also re-sown, whilst all paddocks were fertilised. It is believed that this is the first time in over 40 years that North Carpark has been worked up. These works were undertaken by Ruth and Phil Patterson, with seed and fertiliser supplied by RY.

A special mention should be given to Jade. He was thrown in the deep end, starting his employment just before the lockdown, but his ability to keep our site looking terrific through the lockdown period and manage a range of contractors has made things easier for PMWG. From July, Jade started attending PMWG meetings, reporting new issues directly to the group.

As we move into the 2020/2021 period, the whole Rural Youth Community is well aware that the post COVID-19 period will be a challenging time as we aim to continue works whilst managing social distancing and cleaning processes. Despite this, PMWG is committed to continuing to deliver improvement to all RY assets. Joining PMWG provides a great opportunity for members to be directly involved in large scale projects and developments at Quercus and lead decision making into the future. A number of jobs are already planned for the coming 12 months. For more information on being part of PMWG in 2020/21, don't hesitate to contact the office for information.



DALE HAYERS

On behalf of PMWG 2019/2020





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS CIRCULAR HEAD

Circular Head Club only started up again in January of 2019 so this has been our first full year!

We started off with some members joining in state events and Agfest and then getting involved in our local community. We had a stall at Burnie Show and thanks to Jacob & Jacinta the event gave us some good exposure!

We then helped out at the Smithton Rodeo working on the gate for both days, a great success for the community and we look forward to working with the rodeo committee again.

From January we organised to have every second meeting as a social function rather than normal meetings so in February members attended the Tall Timbers Thursday night raffle and had a great time and introduced some new members.

Then alas COVID-19 hit and we were devastated at not having Agfest as a few of our members were booking leave and excited to volunteer for the event.

But we soldiered on with Zoom meetings where we saw the best double chins our club could provide, Callie's very lovely dressing gown and Billie's matchbox cars appearing in frame a bit too often.

During COVID-19 we organised a photo competition for Circular Head in the hopes of attracting some new members and a big shout out to Reagan for being the motivating force and referring 5 new members in a time where we couldn't even meet face to face.

Since then we have resumed our meetings at AgriTas and are planning some social events in the near future. Unfortunately, Circular Head Ag Show has been cancelled for this year, but we still plan to get out and about in the community.

We held our club AGM in June 2020 chaired by local organic dairy farmer and former Young Farmer member (UK) Matthew Gunningham where members were voted in; our new committee is:

President: Callie Barber

Vice President: Nakore Townsend

Secretary: Jacinta Allen

Treasurer: Samantha Neilson

Circular Head club are so excited to grow and connect with the people around us and forge friendships and network with the wider community into 2020/2021.



DEVONPORT

Over the last 12 months the Devonport club have held two fundraisers.

A Christmas raffle and an Easter fundraiser. August 2019, we held a bowling night for all Rural Youth members which was a fun night and a great success. Earlier this year we did the parking for the Gowrie Park Rodeo. Our AGM was held in June this year. The Devonport club are excited for what this year holds with many ideas for the next 12 months.

TASMAN

On the 22nd of January 2020, those interested in starting a Tasman Rural Youth Club gathered at the CWA in Nubeena.

A lot of interest was shown from the members of the community with about 20-30 people turning up. In the next few months, we planned events and got the hang of how to run a club. Sadly, our first event planned was forced to be cancelled due to COVID-19 but we still continued to meet and design a logo for our club. The community has shown a great deal of support towards our club by donating, hence we thought it was time to give back to the community. So, on the 15th of August we got together as a club and 'Cleaned up our Patch' along White Beach.

Sadly, Agfest was cancelled and we were very disappointed as we were excited to meet the other RY clubs. We decided it was fitting to host an event allowing us to meet the rest of the Rural Youth team and started planning what will be our first event, 'The Bush Doof'.



WESTMORLAND

The past financial year has been slightly productive despite a lot of cancellations and delays in events.

We have had a few club members last year be a part of the committee to plan the Young Farmer dinner in 2019. The event was a huge success, with many great memories and a huge fun filled night. We were also planning to attend/participate with a stall at the Northern Midlands community expo, but due to COVID-19 the event has sadly been postponed to a later date. Our club is still super excited to be a part of this event to represent and discuss more about Rural Youth in our area and surrounding area, when the event takes place.

Over this year a lot of our events had to be cancelled or postponed sadly. As a club we are working on organising more events in the future to help get our club out and about to reach our club goals. We are always discussing new ways to help expand our membership base and to get back into the community. Westmorland as a club despite a few setbacks

are looking forward to what the future holds for our club, all future events, and goals that we cannot wait to achieve. We are hoping to have good things come our way this year, as our members are more willing to get out and about in the Rural Youth and public communities.





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

KINGBOROUGH-HUON

Well this year has definitely been eventful. I would like to thank the KH leadership team for all the support, I would also like to commend all of our members for keeping a strong and positive outlook through the twists and turns this year has thrown at us.

This year Kingborough-Huon was proud to host a Resilience day forum, at the Ranelagh Soldiers Memorial Hall. The Huon Valley was ravaged by the 2018/19 bushfire season and with other added pressure can present a stark reality for some. We hope that we provided help to bring the community together and build strength once again for the community that has been fiercely supportive of our club.

We joined forces this year with the Sorell Rural Youth club, to collect sheep manure as a fundraiser. Our club was extremely grateful for the bulk order of 1,000 bags placed by Leslie Vale Landscape & Gravel Supplies (LLGS), which not only was a great contribution towards our club but provided the platform for us to provide something back to the community and be the start of hopefully a beautiful friendship between our club and LLGS for the future.

The 73rd Huon Show saw us get out in to the community for a great day out. The Dog High Jump, which is always a community favourite, drew a large crowd of spectators, as usual. The Ute Show was well represented across all categories, a special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors who provided great prizes for all our competitors. Finally the well-loved Animal Nursery saw a wide range of patrons and animals alike. The Animal Nursery was brought to life with all kinds of creatures big and small, thanks to the generous help from Kirilee Beveridge.

In February some of our members attended the State Ball in St Helens, which was a brilliant weekend away for many. Our members who attended were excited and thankful when our club was announced as Top Club. As President I am so grateful for the

tireless effort of our members, especially Dylan Bellchambers who collated our entry for the Top Club award. Kingborough Huon would also like to thank those who organised such a fantastic night.

Our social night held at Hyperdrive Kart Racing in Kingston was one of the final events together, before COVID-19, this event took the form of a grand prix go kart race. We saw members from across the state, race for the top spot on the podium. Dylan Bellchambers took out first place closely followed by Alex White and Tobias ten Bensel.

I am so thankful for our member's efforts in staying connected by not only reaching out privately to ensure we felt supported through such a difficult time. We engaged in a new method of working via our zoom meetings and events such as our Parmi competition, judged by the one and only Parmi Connoisseur Dale Hayers.

Our club is saddened that this was the final year for some of our members, Simone Salter and Nicole Elliot. It is a great loss for not only our club but also for Rural Youth as a whole. I am sure we will see them as valuable past members for years to come, also as mentors to our club and the greater organisation. I wish to express to them directly how thankful I am for your ongoing support and guidance you have provided to us all throughout your time as members.

Once again thank you all for a brilliant year considering the testing and difficult times we have all faced together, both as a club and an organisation. I look forward to this coming year, that is bound to be filled with exciting and new opportunities for all.

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

NORTH MOTTON

Well what a year it has been! Kicking off from where we left you for the annual report last year, we head to the finals of the Young Farmer Competition.

Brodie Hill ended up 2nd, Caitlin Radford 5th and Ryan Langely 8th. From there we moved into the Agfest Annual Meeting and the AGM, and this year we had two North Motton members in the top state roles, Jake Williams as State President and Ethan Williams as Agfest Chairman. We also had Caitlin Radford and Georgia Pearce as the Equine Coordinators for Agfest 2020. Though, like everyone else, we were very disheartened by COVID-19 and the cancellation of Agfest we are looking forward to coming back and presenting a smashing 2021 event.

We alternate every month between having a meeting or a social activity. Most meetings were held at the local pubs or as potluck dinners at members houses.

In November we held our raffle fundraising and Animal Nursery at the Ulverstone Show. It was a wet event, but some great money was raised, and it was wonderful to watch the children interacting with the animals! We had our Christmas get together in December at Jake's crib and had a wonderful evening; we even had some special guests that Ethan was on exchange with in Canada!

In February we went to The Zone laser tag in Burnie which was a great night of running around in the dark shooting each other with the lasers. At the end of February Jake, Ethan, Dylan, and Caitlin attended the State Ball in St Helens, and Caitlin took out the Best New Member Award!

In March COVID-19 had settled in and we moved to having our meetings on Zoom, we also held a Trivia Night over zoom which made for a good laugh, we even had members from across the state attend as well! Kelsie Brown was the winner and received a free North Motton Club shirt as her prize. We did another order of club shirts and are stoked with how they look!

In April we were able to put up our new sign as we were slowly allowed out of the house to resume club activities. The new sign is located as you come out of North Motton going down Preston Road on the left-hand side.

During isolation we were getting a little bored, so we came up with the idea of the toilet paper video after seeing a video of a pony club doing it in Victoria. Needless to say, this was a hit and a great way for all of us to come together no matter where we were located in the world at the time! Following on from this video we came together again to create our masterpiece for the Club Rock Challenge, thanks to Dylan for his amazing footage and the Williams' for the use of their boat. We ended up with a Titanic and ACDC theme and had great fun dressing up and hiding from the rain. Even though Jake and Caitlin sacrificed having any feeling after going for a dip in Lake Barrington it was totally worth it to come out and take the win over rival club Kingborough-Huon's cows with guns video (so close you guys).

Our AGM came next and we kept Caitlin as our President and we welcome Lauren as our Vice President, Georgia as our Secretary and Kelsie as our Treasurer. A great achievement for the club was reaching 25 members this year! We participated in the Winter Photo Challenge and congratulate the Devonport Club on their win.

We are now coming up with ideas to fundraise this year through a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and a raffle as the Ulverstone Show has been cancelled. We are looking forward to creating our mocktail for the new competition at Yuri's place at our Bonfire activity in September.



Firstly, I will start off by saying WOW, what a wild and wacky ride this year has been for everyone, and our members have been no exception!

As a club we have grown from holding our meetings at the Oatlands Ex-Servicemen and Women's Club over a parmi or at our clubrooms enjoying a pizza, to becoming experts in the world of Zoom! Although there were teething issues to begin with, we had nearly everyone onboard prior to the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted and being able to resume meeting face to face.

We will take a step back to a simpler time, way back to when we could all travel to events in the same car! Our calendar is always jam-packed with club events and fundraisers in the months leading up to Christmas with the events that we run and assist with annually such as car parking for the Melton Rodeo & Brighton Show. Both events give our members a chance to utilise their organisational skills along with keeping in practice for parking cars at Agfest. We were given a great opportunity from a local farmer who reached out to us to ask if we would be interested in bagging sheep manure on his property. This was an opportunity that we quickly accepted and went about arranging a day. Once the date was set it was all hands on deck as we worked towards loading the farmers flat bed truck with the freshly bagged manure. In total

we had bagged and loaded around 400 bags of manure making for an extremely profitable fundraiser for the club.

If there is one thing aside from having a good parmi at our meetings is that Oatlands Rural Youth is known for our Ute competitions! Every year the Oatlands District High School invites the club to run a Ute Competition at their school fair, which is always a sure hit with the kids and families alike.

Sadly, this year we were unable to hold our biggest annual Ute competition due to the cancellation of Campbell Town Show to COVID-19. This event was notably missed by many of our members and a big loss to the club for the promotion that it provides. We are certainly hoping to make a return next year with bigger and better plans in the pipeline.

2020 saw Oatlands Rural Youth take on a new challenge in the form of running a dog high jump competition at the Fingal Valley Festival. This year was the 40th year that the Fingal Valley Festival has run and the committee was seeking to make for a huge event for the 40th year. With a lot of questions asked of our friends and high jump experts at Tamar club and the support of Hagley club in lending us their high jump set up we were ready to go. The day saw 3 of our members make the long trek to Fingal on what was a beautiful day for the event. For the first ever dog high jump that has been run by Oatlands Rural Youth. Everything went extremely well with quite a few participants entering.

Our club has had a huge presence in the community over the last 12 months and this has been reflected in our membership numbers increasing. We are always persisting to have a presence in the community at events such as the Christmas pageant and school fairs. We also assist with any fundraisers that are running either through a monetary donation or donating a prize for a raffle or an auction. Although a lot of the events that we assist with and run are hard work there is always a strong feeling of camaraderie amongst our members and there is a lot of laughs had during the process.

The past 12 months has seen many of our members take up training opportunities with the support of Rural Youth. Some of the courses that our members have engaged in are excavator, forklift, chainsaw, tree fallers and EWP licences, leadership training and media training. All these courses are of huge benefit to not only the individual but the organisation and their employers.

I sign off this report with the exciting news of our newly elected office bearers being appointed! We would like to wish all of our new office bearers all the very best in their role and would like to point out that all of our office bearers are under the age of 20, this is an amazing achievement for our club and ensures that the organisation has some great leaders in future years.





The club welcomed in new President, Harrison Chugg to hold the reins for 2019/2020. He was supported by an experienced group of office bearers with Jye Earnshaw as Vice President, Josh Mison as Treasurer and Emily Nixon as Secretary.

Over the past 12 months the club has had some fantastic opportunities, a lot of fun and laughs but also some challenging times presented. We have kept our membership base steady, increasing slightly from this time last year and we have been welcoming some wonderful new members from both the Tamar Valley and Dorset regions.

Back in September we kicked off our year by helping Shannon's parking cars at their 3rd Convicts to Classics Car Show held at Woolmer's Estate. The crews outstanding efforts on the day, lead to Woolmer's Estate approaching the club to park cars at their Annual Rose Festival in November. The club worked alongside the event organisers to create a traffic management plan for the day and successfully pulled it off with a few thousand people coming through the gate to enjoy a sunny spring day in the gardens.

Over the same weekend as the Rose Festival the club made its way to Scottsdale for their annual show. Having an information stand and presence for Rural Youth while working on getting the Dorset Club back up and running and supporting Jake Williams in the Rural Ambassador run offs.

In amongst all of that we had some club members help with Hagley's Rural Rumble event, Jye Earnshaw took the lead organising a Ute competition for the event.

Next thing we knew it was Christmas and we were having our Christmas BBQ at Josh and Jess's. We ate way too much food, tried to make a few too many Tik Toks and enjoyed some funny stories from past events.

January rolled around and the club was full steam ahead with Exeter Show preparation, getting all our bits and pieces sorted. This included building the club a new dog high jump to have at

this years show. The dog high jump wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Exeter Show Society, Page Transport and the extraordinary efforts of club member Josh Mison to get it all put together prior to the show.

The club was very lucky to hold our Annual Dog High Jump at Exeter Show just before isolation rules kicked in regarding COVID-19. We were blessed with a beautiful day, lots of dogs ready to jump over our new high jump and some incredible prizes donated by PETstock Launceston, Exeter IGA and Exeter True Value Hardware.

The show was our last community event before we had to start embracing the world of isolation. Moving across to Zoom meetings and catch ups to keep in touch. It took a little getting used to, but we made it work. While the club hasn't had any events to attend, members have been coming up with ways to stay active within the social media community. Our current project has been to learn a little bit more about each member with some interesting profile questions. It was fantastic when we could all get back together for the club's AGM in June and back to our club dinners.

That really sums up our year but, on a side note the club would also like to make mention of some of its incredible members who have been working hard over this time on some personal achievements.

Patrick Rosevear who is a finalist in the "Transition to Work" category for the Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards.

Josh Mison who participated in the 50kms in May to Kiss Goodbye to MS. Raising \$369, which went to fund life-changing research into multiple sclerosis.

Ricky Edson & Harrison Chugg are both volunteer firefighters and spent much of their summer on the front line.

Times may be changing but we are looking forward to embracing this new reality and making 2020/2021 another year to remember.

Western Tiers Rural Youth club had its ups and downs, as many of us have experienced over the last few months. There were some great highlights that we shared as a club and with the organisation also.

June 2019 and the new club year saw the Western Tiers Club travel to the Campbell Town show in the Northern Midlands. WT once again ran a very successful BBQ at the show, as well as a dog high jump competition that was a huge success for the club and was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved. WT teamed up with Westmorland Club, who were going through some regeneration at the time; they helped with the dog high jump and it encouraged their club to get out and about. It was great to also see the Oatlands Club at the Campbell Town Show with their Ute Competition. It was great to see such a large Rural Youth presence at the show and it was a huge day for all involved, but very rewarding.

July and August brought us the Young Farmer Competition, and the club was represented once again by Stuart Cresswell; who went to on place third in the competition, which was a great achievement. There were many Western Tiers members present on the day of the finals at Quercus Park, whom all cheered along with all the competitors in some great challenges and celebrated their victories.

November brought the Show to Deloraine. With the support of the brilliant local community and members, Western Tiers were able to once again put on a brilliant animal nursery with lots of different animals; including crowd favourites, a litter of kittens and a litter of Border Collie Pups whom all found their forever homes as a result of the show.

Western Tiers also started to create one of the most enormous and alluring raffles the club has ever put together; prizes included a nights accommodation at a boutique bush-land retreat valued at over \$350, Photography shoot packages, Lillico Rodeo tickets, Ashgrove Cheese Packs and so many more wonderful prizes from local business. The raffle was drawn early December, and there were many wonderful winners, and a massive \$762 raised! This was a truly brilliant show of support from the local community.

Throughout the year the club also took part in the weekly Friday night meat tray raffle once a month at the British Hotel, in Deloraine; this was a great show of support for the club from the hotel. Later in 2019, Western Tiers and the British Hotel teamed up to once again bring to the community the Giant Pumpkin

Growing Competition, to have a weigh-in and BBQ date set in March 2020; with the club taking home 25% of the funds raised from the event.

With the onset of summer, some of our members, much like numerous others within the organisation participated in the fire fighting efforts throughout the state. With the arrival of 2020, the fiery summer continued, and the onset of COVID-19 brought a new normal to the club, as it did to the community around us. This sadly led to the cancellation of many planned events and social gatherings for the club and our community, namely with Agfest 2020. The impact was felt throughout our little club just like it was with the wider community. Western Tiers moved to the online world and successfully held a few club meetings.

June 2020 brought Western Tiers a new logo and a simple design, along with a resumption of normality with face to face meetings once again and the planning for the future in a different world where we saw ourselves 12 months earlier.

A new calendar year and a new looking club were seen in July 2020, and it is only at the limit of our imagination to what 2020-21 can bring. There is planning happening for expanding our club, growing new connections within the community and working with other clubs more.

From all of us at Western Tiers Rural Youth Club, we want to thank everyone whom has supported and encouraged Western Tiers for the last 12 months. We wish everyone in the Rural Youth and wider community a safe and COVID-19 free future.



yAPN

YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

YAPN

YAPN saw a challenging start to the 2019-2020 term but with the perseverance of a dedicated committee we were able to provide some of the most successful events YAPN has hosted in its young life.

October 2019 brought an exciting panel of agricultural professionals from both education and industry to discuss the future of agriculture in Tasmania. The discussion focused on up and coming advancements in agriculture as well as how young professionals can best position themselves to take full advantage of the many opportunities the agriculture industry provides. This event was a collaboration with the UTAS agricultural department who we thank and look forward to working with again in the future.

Following the success of this event in Launceston we also saw a well-attended tasting and tour event at Glaetzer-Dixon Family Winemakers in Hobart with award-winning owner Nick Glaetzer. Although the southern region has struggled for event attendance in the past, this event showed the committee that growing a membership base in and around Hobart is more than achievable. The committee is looking forward to hosting numerous more southern events like this in future.

In addition to these two events, YAPN also hosted a wide range of social networking events throughout the year with the most notable being a collaboration with the Northern Young Professional Network (NYPN) for an end-of-year networking event. This event was well-attended and provided YAPN attendees to network with those outside of the industry.

With 2020 bringing COVID-19 with it, YAPN saw new challenges as the committee withdrew to focus on their professional and personal lives whilst in lockdown. However, with more and more restrictions easing, the committee looks forward to re-emerging ever stronger than before.

On behalf of the YAPN committee, we would like to thank Rural Youth for their unwavering support – even though we know it hasn't always been easy. Thanks also go to Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) for their involvements in YAPN. We look forward to working more closely together in future.

As a committee, we remain confident that there is space and a desire for an organisation such as YAPN in Tasmania, as is demonstrated by the successful events that were held in late 2019. We encourage all readers to pass on the YAPN name to any young professional with involvement or interest in the agriculture industry.

COVID-19 brought with it trials that we, as a global community, never expected. The YAPN Committee shares sadness and hope with those that have been adversely affected by the virus.

ELLEN DAVIS

YAPN President



RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA

Established and supported by Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania
Supported by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments

Rural Business Tasmania looks to both A) provide training opportunities for business management growth and B) support those doing it tough financially or in managing their business.

A) We have continued our training opportunities this year with an emphasis on youth and we thank Rural Youth Tasmania for the increased interactions and involvement in supporting these endeavours. Our key programs in this space are:

- **Cultivating Rural Excellence Online** is an evolving programme which has had to change to fit the circumstances of 2020. Cultivating Rural Excellence has moved to a digital format, this has both changed what can be delivered but also who is able to connect into the sessions. Although moving online has hindered the delivery of in class sessions it has increased access to those outside of the commutable area. This year the Cultivating Rural Excellence Online programme has 13 participants, 5 have been sponsored by Rural Youth.
- **Cadetship Programme** is being developed to create opportunities for young people to explore and get involved in agricultural industries and those that support it through work experience and Australian School based Apprenticeships (ASbA). This programme aims to bridge the gap between young people and employers by creating a better understanding of each other and the system.

B) We continue to provide invaluable support to over 100 of our farming families struggling with financial hardship and have this year extended our support to small businesses in rural and regional Tasmania, particularly those affected by drought, bushfire and COVID-19. We provide this support through programs including:

- The Australian Government's **Rural Financial Counselling Service and the Small Business Support Program** with a team of 7 providing financial counselling, business coaching and guidance.

- Our charitable arm, **Rural Relief Fund**: our external organisation fundraising efforts and substantial donations have been received throughout the year for those impacted including by bushfire and drought. This has allowed us to provide support for a variety of crisis grants, provide household emergency welfare grants of up to \$2500 per household and distribute IGA shopping vouchers to those doing it tough.
- **COVID-19** program, funded by the Tasmanian Government, partnering with other support services have been providing support to people impacted by the recent lockdown and in need of emergency food relief services enabling people to remain in self isolation and providing feedback to the state government.

Our collaborations and networks remain strong and our lead in chairing the Forum of Rural Stakeholders allows all members, including Rural Youth Tasmania, within the sector to collaborate, share events, emerging issues and keep informed of government and service provider/not for profit organisations working within the space.

We value the input at our Board meetings from Rural Youth Chief Executive Officer, Karen Robinson as Associate Director, representative of Rural Youth Tasmania, position appointed from January 2017 and look forward to continuing to being part of the Rural Youth family and its successful programs.

ELIZABETH SKIRVING

Chief Executive Officer

MICHAL FRYDRYCH

Chairman

Rural Business Tasmania
*Supporting and Growing
Rural Enterprise*



Proudly established in 1986 by Rural Youth Tasmania

Rural Business Tasmania

*Supporting and Growing
Rural Enterprise*



Rural Business Tasmania provides practical business and financial management support, training and guidance to the farming community with a commitment to making a pivotal difference.

A PRODUCT OF RURAL YOUTH TASMANIA (RYT)

Rural Business Tasmania (and previous incarnations – Tasmanian Rural Counselling and Rural Support Tasmania) originated from proactive actions of a small group of Rural Youth Members. Rural Youth Tasmania's two fledgling's – Agfest and Rural Counselling have now both matured to key influences and support of the Tasmanian rural community.

From tentative beginnings, Rural Business Tasmania has been developing and proving itself over the years to become the 'go-to' service for Tasmanian agriculture in times of crisis.

Fostered through its infancy as a division of Rural Youth Tasmania from 1986 to 1995, gaining partial independence (independently incorporated but administered by RYT until 2006) this

organisation truly illustrates anthropologist Margaret Mead's quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Rural Business Tasmania continued in 2019-20 with collaborative efforts to support those who had been hit with crisis, maintaining their supportive and cohesive services to ensure practical and effective service delivery to the rural and regional community.

OUR KEY PROGRAM ARMS EACH CONTRIBUTED:

Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania:

Supported by Australian and Tasmanian Governments – provided by 4.0 FTE Rural financial counsellors, on ground financial counselling support to over 100 farming businesses suffering financial hardship.

Small Business Financial Counselling Service:

Supported by Australian and Tasmanian Governments – provided by 3.0 FTE financial counsellors, delivering counselling to small rural and regional businesses affected by COVID-19, drought and other impacts.

Rural Business Programs:

Provided a variety of partnership programs and fee-based services including Tasmanian Government supported Cultivating Rural Excellence and a currently in development Agribusiness Career Pathway Cadetship Program.

Rural Relief Fund:

Provided an avenue for donations to support farming families in hardship. The Fund continues to provide a small grants program to address household and animal welfare support.

Forum of Rural Stakeholders:

Provided a conduit for collaborative identification of key emerging issues, support measures and information sharing across a wide network of 10+ organisations including government agencies, service providers and industry associations. measures and information sharing across a wide network of 10+ organisations including government agencies, service providers and industry associations.

FINANCIALS

The impact of COVID-19 and cancellation of Agfest 2020 has had a huge effect on the end result for the 2019-2020 financial year.

INCOME	2018-19	2019-20
Rural Youth	\$83,092	\$14,197
Agfest	\$1,603,448	\$138,590
Property Management	\$56,917	\$54,692
Sponsorship		\$96,236
Gov't Funding (incl COVID subsidies)		\$264,494
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,743,457	\$568,209

EXPENDITURE	2018-19	2019-20
Administration	\$629,771	\$628,736
Membership	\$66,802	\$49,998
Property Expenses	\$230,795	\$293,441
Agfest Expenses	\$527,474	\$120,597
Donations	\$19,812	\$729
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,474,654	\$1,093,501

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$268,803	-\$525,292
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This financial year has not been a good one for Rural Youth Tasmania. The impact of COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 Agfest Field Days, just 7 weeks out from the event. As the primary source of income for the organisation, the cancellation of our event was devastating for our finances, members, staff and stakeholders.

We are very grateful to the State Government for providing funds to enable us to develop an alternative platform for our exhibitors and patrons, in the form of "Agfest in the Cloud". This was extremely well received.

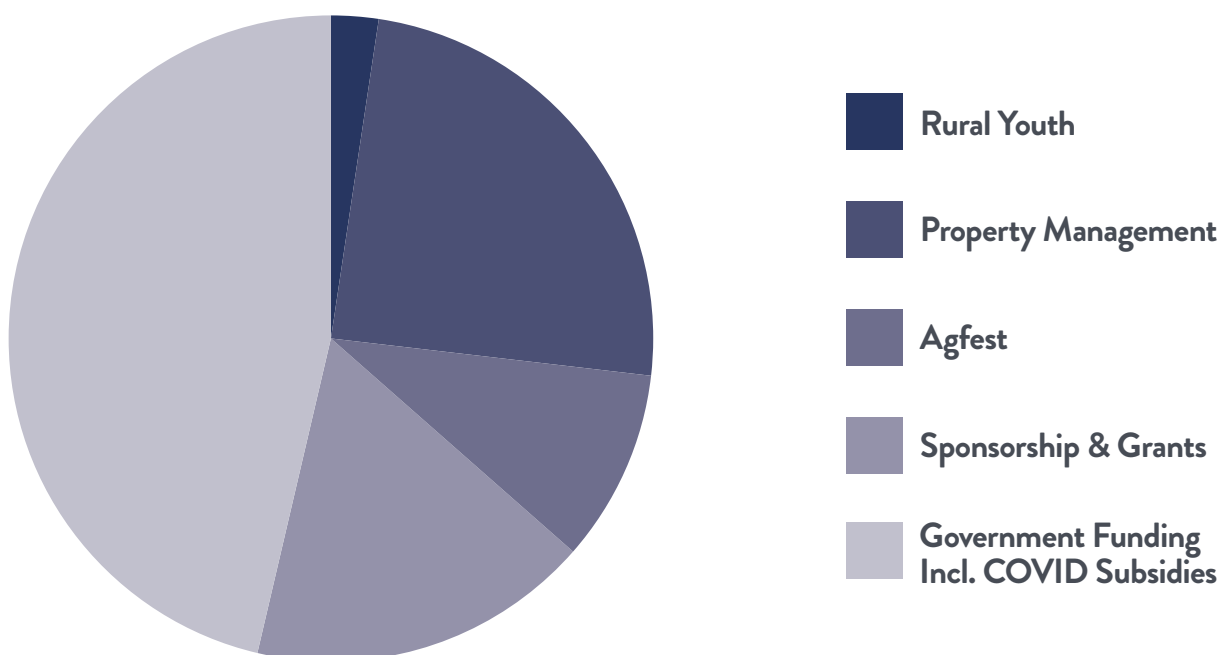
Prior to the cancellation, improvements to the property, namely the construction of an accommodation building, contributed to

the strategic goal of making Quercus Park a leading event and accommodation space in Tasmania. This development would not have been possible without the support and assistance of the Federal Government through the Building Better Regions Fund. As the new normal becomes clearer, we will be proactive in our promotion of these facilities.

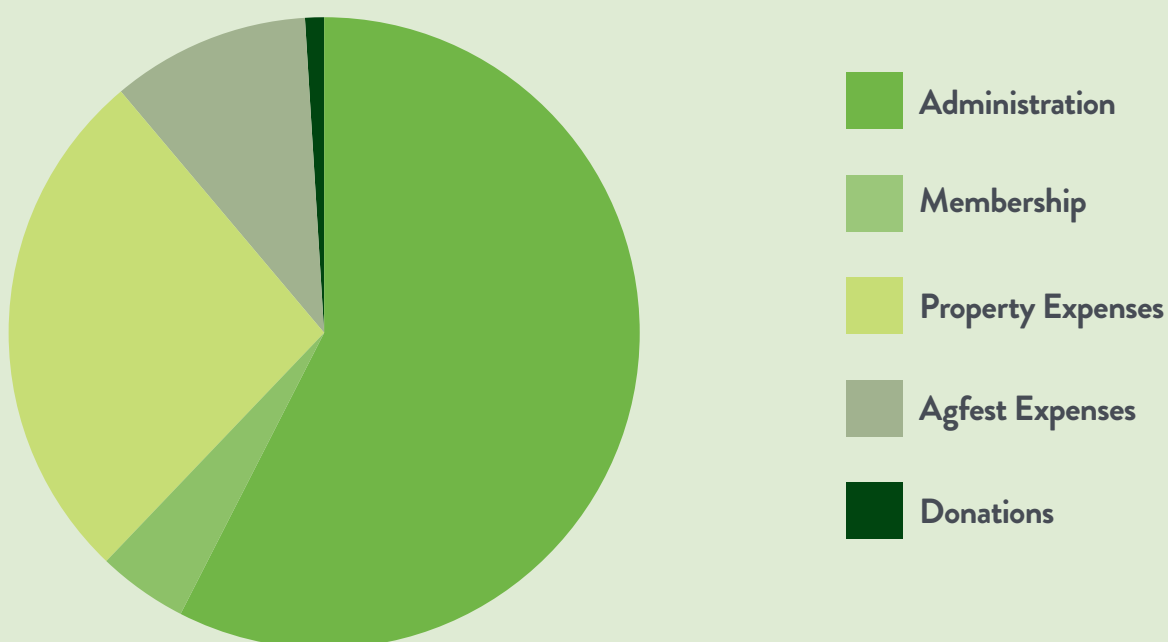
Looking ahead, we are working hard to identify areas where savings can be made, and also consider options for Agfest 2021, what the event may look like, taking into account Government restrictions and the changing business landscape.

A complete set of audited financial statements is available from the organisation upon request.

SOURCE OF INCOME 2019-20



AREAS OF EXPENDITURE 2019-20





SPONSORS

Rural Youth Tasmania would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their support to our organisation and members – it is greatly appreciated

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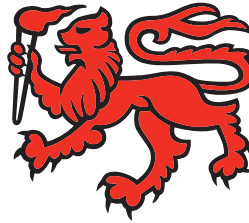
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