



Rural Youth Tasmania Newsletter

State President

I'd like to begin by thanking Rural Youth members for the opportunity to continue as State President. I am excited to see what we can achieve as an organisation over the next 12 months as we work together implementing the new structure and constitution. Both of which were passed unanimously at the SGM. We can be very proud of what we have achieved so far. Looking through our strategic plan we are well on the way to ticking all the boxes before we embark on the next stage. As well as implementing the new structure, we are tackling safety head on and we are ensuring Rural Youth is an organisation that provides something for every member, all the way from 15 to 30.

The inaugural board has a big job ahead of it. Joining me on the team is Jake Williams as Senior VP and Owen Woolley as Agfest Chairman/Junior VP as well as Ethan Williams, Breeanna House, Josh Taylor, Dale Hayers, William Craigie and Matthew Tattersall as board members. Three advisory members make up the total voting board. The board is purely strategic, looking at the big picture ideas that will help keep Rural Youth current. They will also oversee and support the operational directors who are working on the ground to provide great activities and benefits for members. At the first board meeting Sarah Revell was voted in as the Rural Youth Treasurer, a position that is not open unless a member submits a specific request outlining their passion and plans for the role. Whilst most of the operational roles were filled, there are still some positions vacant. If you are interested in leadership and training or communications and media then please submit your application before 14 August. Operational directors will be announced after the next board meeting.

Northern Region did an amazing job planning and putting on the State Ball at Penny Royal. It was a great night to recognise the achievements of our members, with Top Club, Study Tours, Outstanding Member and Best New Member all being presented on the night. Congratulations to everyone who walked away with an award and congratulations to those who put themselves forward. As most of you may know, unfortunately 3 members put a dampener on the evening with their behaviour but I want to reinforce to everyone who was there that night and all other members that the behaviour of a few does not represent the entire organisation. Many members have approached me worried about this issue tarnishing our reputation, which we are working so hard to improve. There may be times when we hit a bump in the road but all the great things we do and achieve far outweigh these bumps. I can assure you that the board takes these matters very seriously and we are working together to fix our current problem and make sure this doesn't happen again. We are following the constitution to ensure a fair process and we ask that members help us by not exasperating the situation through gossip and rumours.

With one meeting down and eleven to go I am keen to move forward with our ideas. In particular I would like to see developments at Quercus go ahead our community involvement expand. If you have any ideas you want on the agenda please send it through to myself or head office, or you can come along to a meeting as a guest. We're always looking for new and exciting ideas.

August 2017

Inside this issue:

CEO	2
Past Members	3
Club Reports	4-6
Reports	4-6
AGFEST	7
Study Tours Reports	12-13
Calendar / Contacts	14

Contact us:

62 York Street, Launceston,
PO Box 322, Launceston, TAS,
7250

(03) 6331 6154

admin@ruralyouth.com.au or
admin@agfest.com.au

Please submit all collateral for
**Rural Youth Tasmania
Newsletter** by the third Friday
of every month to
editor@ruralyouth.com.au

CEO—General Manager

We have finally done it! The new Constitution and structure is now official – so we can just get on with things! Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the SGM on July 8. From our Independent Chairs and Scrutineers (David Dunn, Ian Mackenzie, Sharon Symons and Jayne Clark respectively) to Sarah Revell for her great catering and Jake Williams for his event planning (sadly, I was a handicap to my team as a hungry hippo – all I can say is I tried!) – we couldn't have done it without you! It was a great day!

Congratulations to all who have been elected and appointed to the various roles!

The coming twelve months are going to be exciting and challenging as we put everything in place, and there may be times where we need to change things to better meet the Organisation's needs. Please bear with us – this is going to be a learning curve for everyone. We are also going to change some processes as to how things are done, which some may find difficult to accept. We do not believe this will impact members greatly. Nor is it designed to 'take away' from the members, rather it is to assist them in their roles, maximising the experience of the staff and allowing us to act on behalf of members. The major reason for this restructure was to make it easier for members to take on roles and get more out of the organisation, this is part of that process. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns/questions during the process.

There is still lots happening in the coming weeks State Ball, Agfest Brainstorming and Young Farmer to name a few. YAPN (Young Agricultural Professionals Network) is also running a free finance panel discussion featuring Agribusiness professionals in Ulverstone on August 9 – follow this link www.yapn.com.au for more details.

Keep an eye on Social Media for updates on these events and more!

Regards

Karen

Brighton

This month at Brighton Rural Youth we got together as a club at AMF bowling alley for a social meeting.

Our members had heaps of fun and our newest member Sam managed to walk away with the highest score!!

In addition to the fun had at our social meeting, four of our members also travelled up to State Ball and had an excellent time.

The club has been relatively quiet this month, but this just makes for a busier and more exciting upcoming month!

We haven't scheduled our next meeting as of yet but we would love to welcome anybody who may be interested in attending to see or be a part of all of the exciting things in the pipeline for Brighton Rural Youth.

If you think you or someone you know would be interested in attending, look us up on Facebook at 'Brighton Rural Youth'.

We will be sure to update our page to advise of the date and time of our next club meeting.

Alternatively, you can contact myself (Erin) on 0437 208 812 or Tameika on 0438 060 016 to find out the details.





**TASMANIAN RURAL YOUTH
PAST MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**

A fast-paced and comprehensive program of events for the weekend of 11-13th August, put together by our southern members. Please come along and join us for some or all of this very interesting itinerary, while reconnecting with some of your past Junior Farmer/Rural Youth peers. **Current Rural Youth members also invited.**

Some people will organise to arrive at Richmond on the Friday night, but tours commence on the Saturday. Meet at the northern end of the Richmond Football ground at 10.30am on Saturday, so that we can arrive at the first venue in a group. Program includes:

Saturday August 12:

- **11 am - Strathayr, Richmond** - hosted by Bill Casimaty AM
- **12.30 pm – Benjo Seeds, Richmond** – hosted by Rob Salmon, Manager of the Tasmanian Operations. Tour will conclude with a bbq lunch and a sample of the locally produced Bejo award winning wines.
- **3 pm - Greenfields Oysters, Barilla Bay, Cambridge** – hosted by Tony Byrne. This tour will also include samples of his product and pre dinner drinks on site.
- **6.30 pm – Dinner at the Tasmanian Golf Club, Cambridge** with guest speaker Andrew Beven, joint owner of 'Lost Pippin Cider'. His Lost Pippin, and Cranston Lamb Baa have won several awards at both Taste of Tasmania and Festivale.

Sunday August 13

- **9 am** Breakfast at Sanford, at the home of Wesley and Belinda Hazell, followed by a tour of the nearby Mornington Waste Transfer Station.
Conclusion, own lunch and safe travel home.

Notes:

- Morning tea and BBQ lunch may attract a small cost of up to \$15.
- Dinner cost (*approx. \$40 pp depending on your choices*)
- BBQ lunch on Saturday will be inside for shelter
- Warm clothing and sturdy foot wear recommended
- Various accommodation types available locally, including caravan park
- **Comprehensive itinerary and menu available upon request from reception@ruralyouth.com.au**

RSVP - as early as possible as we need to book numbers for Saturday night dinner, to:

Noel Beven - by August 1

Mobile: 0418 604 286 or Email: noelbeven@hotmail.com



Sorell

Hi Guys,

Another quiet month at Sorell, members caught up for dinner and bowling recently and a working bee was held at the Pawleena hall with members coming from other clubs to assist with a general tidy up and maintenance day.

Our next meeting hasn't been set yet, but please keep an eye on the Sorell Rural Youth page on Facebook.

Regards,
Matt Tattersall

Western Tiers

Hi all, Western Tiers have been quietly planning the biggest thing for our club yet, an animal nursery. This year for the Deloraine show, Western Tiers have been lucky enough to be offered the role of running the animal nursery at the show, and we are excited to take on the role and make our little club great again!

Western Tiers is very proud of club President, Stuart Cresswell for being awarded the prize of "Best New Member" for Rural Youth 2016. Stuart has done a lot for our little club, and we hope that he continues doing what he enjoys and helps our little club grow.

We are planning for our next club meeting to be held at Kat & Stuart's place on Monday 7th July for a potluck tea. Stay tuned for details.

Stuart Cresswell,
Club President
0488 666 365.



Central Highlands

Central Highlands Rural Youth has had some changes through it in the past couple months with our President Zoe Brown having to leave the club due to health reasons. With another election seeing:

Oliver Haigh elected as President and Treasurer

Joel Davey elected as Vice President

Anthony Franklin elected as Secretary

We've also had three new members join with Brandan Hall, Chloe Wells and Corey Keleher joining us this year

We had a working bee at Anthony's bagging sheep manure to try and sell to raise money for social events.

Any enquiries about the club or joining contact Oliver Haigh on 0487928844 or Anthony Franklin on 0427 604 913

Our next meeting is August 29th at the Bush Inn at New Norfolk.



AAA SOCKS



Kingborough Huon

Kingborough Huon has been fairly quiet of late however this month we saw a group of our members frock up and attend State Ball, they enjoyed their night thoroughly.

A huge congratulations to our Owen on being appointed the Chairman of Agfest 2018, alongside him Dale was appointed Vice Chairman and Nicole elected as the Rural Youth member. Also congratulations to the other members that were elected into roles on the Agfest and Rural Youth Board. We look forward to following your success.

Our next meeting is to be decided but follow our Facebook page Kingborough Huon Rural Youth for more details. Or contact Kaysie 0408297021.

'Get a boot out of life'

SPECIAL OFFER!!

Purchase any Entertainment Book (including the interstate ones) via the online payment page, follow the link in the ad, before midnight on Monday 31st July, and your postage costs will be free!!

That's right, receive your book direct to your door, with no postage costs!!



Northern Region

Northern Region club has held its final state event under the former organisation structure, State Ball 2017. We would like to thank all those that came along for the night, we hope that you all had a wonderful time, and enjoyed all the food, drink and company. Northern Region would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Penny Royal Restaurant and Wine Bar for everything they did to make sure the night went well and to our DJ, Shane from Little Black Booth for providing us with great tunes and for being a top bloke to work with.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Liam King, Photographer for the evening, you did a great job; we cannot wait to share with you the snaps of the night in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all those that were awarded exchanges and scholarships at the evening, and to Jake Williams and Stuart Cresswell for taking home Most Outstanding Member and Best New Member for 2016 respectively.

Northern Region would like to thank everyone for their support during their events, and we hope that we can all come together under the new organisational structure to do bigger and better yet again!

Signing off,
Northern Region.
Treasurer, Kat Cenin.
0429 983 614



AGFEST

TASMANIA'S FIELD DAYS

Hello All,

It's with great pleasure that I am addressing you with my first report as the incoming 2018 Agfest Chairman.

Agfest has been a big part of my life over the past seven years. Over the years I have held many different roles on the committee, including Central Arena, Safety, Assistant Operations, Security and Assistant Waste Coordinator. As well as my involvement in Agfest, I have also held multiple roles on different committees amongst the organisation, from club level in Kingborough Huon Rural Youth through to roles on Rural Youth State Council, all these roles have provided me with a really strong foundation to be able to take on and build from the work of previous chairmen and committees.

Ever since my first Agfest it has been an ambition to become chairman. Over the years I believe I have gained valuable knowledge and experience of the organisation, event and Quercus site aiding in my ability to fulfil the role to the best of my ability.

I would also like to congratulate the following people on their election to the following roles forming our executive:

Vice Chairman – Dale Hayers

Exhibitor Manager – Ethan Williams

Operations Manager – Jake Williams

Finance Manager – Sarah Revell

Safety and Compliance – Josh Taylor

Media and Promotions – Breeanna House

Features Manager – Kara Crosswell

Rural Youth Representative – Nicole Elliot

Rural Youth State President – Ashley Evans

Together with the elected committee I am looking forward to the coming months of planning, organising and running one of Tasmania's largest attractions and events.

Until next time,

Owen Woolley
Agfest Chairman.





Just
\$65*
giving you over
\$20,000
of value!

Planning a Holiday Interstate?

Why not purchase an Entertainment Book for the area you are heading to?

As well as airlines, accommodation, theme parks and car hire savings, you can save hundreds of dollars at a choice of restaurants and other attractions.



For example, if you are heading to Melbourne, how about buy one, get one free entry to the Melbourne Star, the IMAX Theatre, MCG AFL entry, the Melbourne Aquarium, Eureka Skydeck, just to name a few, PLUS 25% off at Draculas, Witches in Britches, or Luna Park!!

There are hundreds more opportunities to save big dollars - click the link below, and you can browse the books for all different areas to see where you can save big time!

To purchase a book, more information, or to browse one of the books

[CLICK HERE](#)



entertainment™



* other city books are between \$60 & \$70



FINANCE IN BUSINESS

for Young People in Agriculture

You're invited to chat finance with a panel of agribusiness professionals. Commencing at 6pm on August 9th in Montgomery Room in Ulverstone. Our first finance event will provide an open forum to discuss all things finance for your business including minimising tax, business planning, goal setting and income management.

Facilitated by George Gatenby, the panelists include,

- Andrew Radford, ATR Accounting
- Dean Lalor, Rural Bank
- Penny Williams, Independent Farm Consultant

The event is free, regardless of if you are a member of YAPN or not. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

To register, please visit <https://financeinbusiness.eventbrite.com.au>

VILLAGE CINEMA MOVIE TICKETS

Now \$10

Now \$10 for \$13.50 first in, first served



Normally at our discounted price of \$13.50

Limited amount left, expiring on the 31st August

Ring or email head office. We take payment by credit card over the phone



Study Tour Recipients Announced

On the 25th of June six study tour applicants gathered ready to put all their mite in to earning a study tour for 2018. We started the day by heading out on a tour at Armidale stud, just near Carrick. There we listen to Robyn Wishtaw speak about the history of Armidale over the past 100 year or 4 generations. The stud is now operating as a farm as well with half income coming from crop farming and half from the horse stud. We were also informed that when they are selling a horse at sales the horse requires a vet check and a full set of x-rays, consisting of 42 x-rays and costing \$1000.

After learning about horse farming it was back to Quercus where the remainder of the selection day was happening. We were then presented with the demonstrations from each applicant. We saw fire turning, icing a cake, cooking quinoa, glasses, cutting a chook up and beef cattle presentation.

Applicants then wrote a report of their visit to Armidale as if they were writing one for the newsletter. They also had a quiz to complete and interview with the judges on the topics of Rural Youth, general knowledge and agriculture. Then it was the deliberation time for the judges and they has a tough time to decide. Eventually they were able to come to a very tough decision and would like to congratulate all for applying, just because you missed out on an exchange this year – please don't be disheartened and apply again next year.

The study tour recipients were announced at State Ball on Saturday evening in Launceston. Congratulations to the 2018 study tour winners:

Ethan Williams – Canada

Nicole Elliott – USA

Peter Damen – UK

Lucy Bain – Young Endeavour

Renee Latham – Self nominated (Jillaroo course)

Once again, congratulations on receiving your study tours.

Cheers

Amanda

Study Tours Coordinator





Rural Youth of Tasmania is offering

Fork Lift Courses in 2017

When: September 2nd - 3rd or October 7th -8th

Where: Quercus Park, Carrick

Cost: \$350 per person

The course is open to **RURAL YOUTH** members.

Each course can take up to 6 people. More courses can be organised if the need/requirement is there.

Remember current **RURAL YOUTH** members can use your training subsidy if you have not used it already. The training subsidy is up to \$200 per person a year.

Any questions call Nicole Elliott 0400 566 259

RSVP's to Rural Youth Head Office;

reception@ruralyouth.com.au



William Craigie United Kingdom Exchange

I left Lancaster via train to Edinburgh on the 12th of June, the trip was delayed because the door fell off the main train but I got to Edinburgh safe and sound.

Edinburgh is a beautiful city built on a hill with lots of rises and stairs. I dragged my bag and suitcase to the street where I was staying, it turns out there are 2 hostels called the Cowgate hostel. On arriving to the first hostel (the wrong one) I met an English girl named Lauren who was arguing with the receptionist so when we worked out that it was the wrong hostel we continued to the correct one. Because we checked in at the same time we got put into a share room with a New Zealander and an Englishman.

That night we met with Gemma (past exchangee to Tassie) for dinner then to a bar for a drink where I met the rest of the exchange group. This was the first part of my exchange in a group which I enjoyed, there was 2 English, 2 Welsh, 2 Northern Irish, 1 Irish, 2 Finnish, 1 Swiss, 1 New Zealand and myself.

We went sightseeing to a pick your own style farm and shop ironically called Craigie's, we also went out to 5 river bridges and stopped off at the Scottish Parliament. At the Scottish Parliament we went on a small tour into the meeting room, as young representatives of the world we had a discussion about a broad range of topics including U.K leaving the EU, farm payments from the government, TB in livestock and other issues, it was a very interesting talk.

I went to the International Trust dinner on Tuesday night. There was a range of supporters and important people. At the dinner, I had a chat with a reporter from the Herald newspaper so I got a small mention in the agricultural section.

The group of exchangees went to Ayrshire where we got spread around host families. My first host was Robert Campbell. He comes from a family dairy and beef farm. For the week we went site seeing, cut and hauled silage, farm tours and young farmers events. When staying with the Campbell's we went out cutting silage in a 180 horsepower case with front and one side mower. I got shown the controls, given a test drive and then left to it. The following day I was in a smaller case with a single side mower. We had a day raking then hauling. I did countless loads of silage into many pits, it was a great experience to see how silage is done on the other side of the world.

We returned to Edinburgh for the Highland Show. I was staying in the same hostel but this time I had a room with 3 Irish. Through the days we explored the show, of the evenings we went to the Main reception and Exchange reception. At night there were dances and bars for the young farmers.

After the show half of the exchangees left and the remaining went with SSS Young Farmers club, three of us went into a cabin and were collected through the days for activities sightseeing and club events. I met with James Campbell who was my second host. He works with his dad on a sheep farm, we checked sheep/farm jobs and sightseeing. We went to Dublin for a day and went to a Rhubarb farm tour, farm shop, sports nights and pub golf with the Young Farmers club.

Water sports day in St. Andrews east coast beach where we kayaked with a hire company called Blown Away, ironically it was a windy day but very enjoyable. That night we went to a show dance was a quite enjoyable night. I had a quiet Sunday morning on the couch watching a movie and train back to Edinburgh where I stayed the night at a Hostel and then back to England to mark the end of my exchange.

All in all I loved my exchange trip from England to Northern Ireland to Wales to Scotland. I have met hundreds of people and seen many things. I have learnt new skills that I can take home and apply to our farm in Tasmania, also the things I have seen here in the Young Farmers would be great to introduce into our Rural Youth. I now have 10 weeks of backing up my sleeve where I will spend 4 weeks travelling around U.K. Visiting and sightseeing, 5 weeks backpacking around Europe and one week in England before the long flight home.



Brigid Worldon—Switzerland

Wow the time has come for me to depart for Switzerland. The past 12 months have flew by ever so quickly and here I am now 16,622 km away from home.

Friday 16th June was the big day where I departed from the Devonport airport with 20 hours of flying ahead. I arrived in Switzerland at the Zurich airport at 6:10 am on Saturday feeling very jet lagged from the flight and having going back 8 hours from local Tassie time. It was so nice to see the smiling face of Christa (2016 exchangee from Switzerland) waiting for me at the departure gate. We proceeded to get my luggage and continued on to the train station which I caught to the center of Zurich and met my first host family the Windlin's, which I will be staying with for the next four weeks. They are quite a large household with wife Yvette husband Walti there three daughters Natalie, Lina (is currently on exchange in Scotland with Will Cragie) Emely and son Ivan, grandma and grandpa also live with them in the house.

Yvette met me at the train station with her brother Albi and we spent some time getting to know one another with Natalie catching up with us later that afternoon.

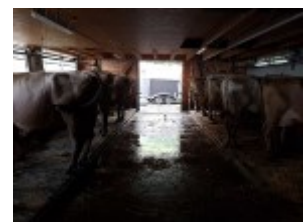
My first day was about getting to know the family and where they lived. They live in central Switzerland in the canton of Sarnen and village of Kerns. Yvette and Walti run a bio dairy farming operation with 21 brown swiss cows, during the winter they are housed in a barn located next to their house and run on the 10 acres they own. During summer all the cows, heifers and calves are taken up the alps which they are currently leasing, consisting of 280 acres. Bio farming is huge in Switzerland, they get a lot of financial support from the government in helping keep the native grasses in the pastures, many times when walking through the fields I have seen native strawberries, herbs like parsley, mint and coriander, it really does look beautiful but its so rewarding for the farmers and the environment.

My first three weeks in Switzerland have been amazing, I have stayed and helped milk the cows up in the alps, been part of the every day running of the farm with hay making and moving the stock across the mountain and even got to do some hiking. When not helping on the farm Yvette is a home economics teacher, so every Thursday and Friday I have helped her and the students with cooking and got to teach them a few things about Tasmania.

I have also been part of the International Farming Youth Exchange incoming weekend where I met 19 other exchangee from Costa Rica, Astonia, Scotland, Wales, Norway, USA, Taiwan, South Korea and Finland. We all spent a fun weekend together getting to know one another during a hike to the Sittlisalp cheese and yoghurt factory. The factory is located on an alp and there are 9 farms in the area with around 110 cows in total, all 9 farms bring their milk to the one factory and they all put in the time and effort in the making of the cheeses and yogurt, they supply the local town in Urigen but mostly rely on hikers and tourists to buy their products.

This last week has mostly consisted of hay making as its perfect drying weather, a stunning 28-30 degrees nearly everyday so far, but I did get to visit the local mushroom factory where Emely and Ivan work at every Saturday morning and then onto Luzern for a visit around the city.

That's all from me for now, I would like to wish those who put in for the 2018 exchange all the very best and it is an amazing experience!





Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc. Insurance Information

For the protection of the organisation and members, and in addition to buildings and equipment insurance, Rural Youth has the following insurance cover:

Public Liability

- \$50M Public Liability Insurance (*not including Agfest which is insured separately as part of a scheme Insurance Cover with all other Shows and Field Days throughout Australia*)

All functions which involve members of the public and alcohol sales are to have a Risk Management Strategy – contact the office for information.

- Any person/parties who hire Quercus Rural Youth Park for functions and events must have their own Public Liability Insurance for their event.

Volunteer Workers Insurance

All members are covered whilst participating in sanctioned voluntary work on behalf of the organisation. This may include occasions such as attending authorised working bees, or running the animal nursery at the local show.

Note – sign in sheets showing clear start and finish times, are required for all working bees.

- (a) Death Benefits of \$100,000
- (b) Weekly benefits for loss of income – up to \$500 per week up to 104 weeks.
- (c) 7 day waiting period
- (d) 85% of non-Medicare medical expenses up to a max. \$5000 (*\$50 excess payable*)

In circumstances where excessive consumption of alcohol and/or any drug use has occurred, claims may not be covered by the policy.

Corporate Travel Insurance

Covers members who travel interstate and overseas on study tour exchanges, or any authorised Rural Youth related travel, up to a maximum 6 month period of travel. Overseas cover includes unlimited overseas medical expenses, \$10,000 baggage and personal effects, \$5000 money/ travellers cheques and credit cards. Additional cover may be required if risky activities are planned during the trip, or if extended personal travel is involved.. Full policy available for perusal.

To be covered by any of the above insurances, you must be a financial member at the time of the event/travel.

If you have any queries regarding our insurance policies, and any exclusions that might apply to any of these policies, please call Linda Perkins at Rural Youth Head Office on 6331 6154 or email on finance@ruralyouth.com.au

The information contained in this document is current as at July 2017



Meander Valley Council Community News

Energizing Meander Valley

On Wednesday 21 June, Meander Valley Council became the first Council in Northern Tasmania to completely transform its street light network by installing energy efficient LED's. As part of the Northern Lights project, Meander Valley Council joined five other Northern Tasmanian Councils to save energy by replacing old, outdated, 80W street lights with new 14W LED units.

By improving energy efficiency by more than 82%, each of the 1,100 new street lights in Meander Valley will pay for themselves in around eight years and will continue to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the next two decades. Once complete, the entire Northern Lights project will save over \$16m and will achieve a 7850 tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which is equivalent to removing 3000 cars off the road.

"The environmental and economic benefits we are realising today are the result of a five-year partnership, hard work, research and above all, vision. Early trials undertaken by Meander Valley Council at Prospect Vale Marketplace helped prove the potential of LED technology and this leadership encouraged the Local Government Association of Tasmania, other Councils and Tasmanian Networks to consider a change for the better," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Council adopts 2017-18 budget

At its meeting in June, Meander Valley Council adopted the budget for the 2017-2018 financial year, approving a 2.8 percent increase in the General Rate. The increase is in line with inflation and will support the sustainability of Council's ten-year financial plan. In determining this year's budget, Council considered a number of external pressures including flood remediation work that has contributed to an extended capital works program, the uncertainty around TasWater dividends and decreasing revenue from interest payments.

A number of one-off project costs have also contributed to additional expenditure. This includes provision of funding for infrastructure planning in the areas of roads and storm water and a number of specific projects such as the road network strategy, the Deloraine and Districts' Recreational Precinct Feasibility Study and storm water modelling.

Capital works approved at the Council meeting in May, and a \$6.877m carryover of capital works from last financial year, have also been allocated funding totalling \$13.518m.

"We have been working to deliver a very reasonable budget despite many external factors and I thank my fellow Councillors and Council staff for its development," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

On average, rates notices for residential properties will increase from around \$25 for a property at Mole Creek to around \$85 for a property at Prospect Vale. This includes a small increase in the waste management charge for the provision of waste services and the operation of land fill sites and transfer stations. It also includes the State Government Fire Commission Contribution.

"Council will remain very cognisant of expenditure and will continue to focus on the long term financial sustainability of our municipal area," Mayor Craig Perkins said. Detailed copies of the 2017-2018 budget can be found on Council's website www.meander.tas.gov.au

When I grow up I want to be...

It was back to school for a number of Meander Valley Council's employees as they attended a career morning at the Deloraine High School last month. Organised in partnership with Deloraine High School and the Beacon Foundation, the Speed Career event focussed on increasing student's awareness of the career paths available to them. Students were able to gain an insight into some of the roles undertaken by Council Officers and the many different career pathways that led them to work in local government.

Environmental health, infrastructure, administration, customer service and community development officers were all on hand to answer questions and share experiences. Participants were asked about their career stories, how they got to be where they are and how this may differ from what they envisaged when they were in high school.

Some of these journeys involved university, others apprenticeships, vocational and on-the-job training. It is hoped that by gaining this valuable insight, students realise that there are a number of options available to them.

The event helped students understand that while planning is important, there are many avenues and it is not unusual to embark on different career paths along the way.

