

October 2017

Newsletter

2017 Young Farmer Final Results

On Saturday, the 23rd September, Rural Youth Tasmania held the 2017 Young Farmer of the Year Competition at Quercus Park. Nine finalists battled it out for the title.

The competitors completed modules including Farm Finance, Seed Identification, First Aid, and Beef Judging, amongst others. During the Young Farmer Dinner that evening, the competitors completed their final module, debating. They worked in two teams, debating two very interesting topics –

- Non-conventional agricultural practices are more viable (financially and environmentally) in the long term than conventional practices, and
- Females working in agriculture deserve equal pay to men

The final scores were tallied and checked multiple times, due to it being a very close competition between the first three places.

Results as follows:

Peter Damen - 2017 Young Farmer of the Year

Andrea Craigie – 2nd place

Matthew Bayles – 3rd place

Congratulations to Peter Damen, an organic farmer from Kindred, who has taken out the title after four years of competing.

Will Baxter was the first non-Rural Youth member to compete in this event, after the competition was opened up to the public this year. We hope to see more non-Rural Youth members join the competition in future years.

Rural Youth Tasmania would like to thank all our valuable sponsors - Polaris, Allgoods, Tasweld, Oregon, and ProSkill Australia. Without their continued support and contribution, this event would not happen.

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Young Farmer Winner—Peter Damen

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



State President

This month has been an action-packed month, with members doing a great job providing events and competitions for everyone to enjoy. Rural Youth and Agfest have both been nominated as finalists in the Community Achievement Awards. A fantastic achievement by everyone. Go us! We'll all be crossing our fingers and hoping it's our name read out on the night.

One of the organisations' premier events of the year, Young Farmer State Final was held on 23 September. The competition saw 9 finalists competing to take home the title, with 1 unfortunately a no-show on the day. At the end of the day there can only be one winner and I would like to congratulate Peter Damen on being this year's Young Farmer of the year. A well-deserved win. I would also like to congratulate Andrea Craigie and Matthew Bayles on coming second and third, respectively. Will Baxter, the only non-member competitor for 2017 did a great job, winning the runoffs and then coming in fourth overall at the finals. Well done to everyone who competed.

Young Farmer dinner was a blast from the past, with fluro and bad hair taking centre stage during the 80s-themed night. The dinner was a great night for everyone to get together and not only celebrate the Young Farmer competition and the members who had made it through to the finals but to also get together and have fun. The photos from the night certainly show that we all did! Well done to the team who put on such a fantastic night.

Following on from the Pistol competition in Launceston, the shooting competition was held at Bracknell on 24 September. Members braved the wind and rain to compete in both rifle and clay bird competitions. Well done to the winners on the day.

It's great to see that the clubs are getting out in to the community with many around the state attending events and hosting competitions. In the northwest, North Motton are having an animal nursery at Ulverstone Show. In the north Tamar are having a site at the Exeter Fair and down south Oatlands are hosting a ute competition at the Oatlands School Fair, Brighton are parking cars at Melton Mowbray and hosting a ute competition and dog high jump at Brighton Show, and Sorell will be at the Sorell School Fair with bells and whistles on. Great job everyone!

The vulnerable people checks are still causing some issue with members. I would just like to remind everyone that with the laws around this and the nature of Rural Youth we need all members to have their checks completed. Thank-you to the club presidents who are taking this message back to clubs and getting their members on board.

I look forward to the next month and seeing what we can all achieve!



CEO

Late September proved to be busy and successful for Rural Youth and the Agfest Committee. Linda and Selena did a great job representing us at the interviews for the Chamber of Commerce Awards. We also received notification that the 2017 Agfest Committee have been recognised as a semi finalist in the Community Group of the Year category for the Community Achievement Awards. Finalists will be decided on October 5 and announced on December 1.

I was fortunate to spend a week in Sydney undertaking the Executive Certificate in Event Management through the University of Technology Sydney thanks to a scholarship from Events Tasmania. The knowledge gained can be applied across the Organisation to grow all of our events. On top of this applications for Agfest 2018 opened on October 1!

Young Farmer will have been run and won by the time this is read, regardless, good luck to the finalists and thank you to Ash, Dave, Matt, Josh, Jake and everyone else who contributed to the success of this event. Special mention to Paige who achieved much under pressure in little time!

In the coming months Clubs can expect a visit from our travelling road show - the point of which is to answer questions members may have about recent changes to the Constitution, meeting procedure and finance reporting amongst other things. More importantly we also want to hear what activities you, as members would like Rural Youth to be involved with and participate in.

I will be in the sun on leave next month so I will leave it to the girls in the office to provide you with the next CEO update!

Regards,

Karen



AGFEST

Hello All,

Agfest is sneaking up on us, and before we know it the Field Days will be in full swing.

We have had a few meetings in close procession in the last month, firstly to discuss the proposal from Ashley Evans for the Livestock expo/show.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ashley on all the work and information provided for the proposal. This is a fantastic idea, proposal and exactly what Agfest needs and believe that with the guidance and drive by Ashley, Caine and a supportive committee that this proposal will become a massive draw card for our event.

Very soon the time will come to start setting budgets and figure out how all that side of this organising role works I look forward to working with Sarah and Linda on this exciting new task.

Also I know Selena has been flat out organising and editing manuals so they can be sent out to the new directors, my email inbox has been hammered with copies of all the edited manuals. Thank you Selena for all your work there ensuring everyone has a correct and up to date manual.

As we are all aware the structure of Agfest has changed recently with the implementation of the new board structure and voting roles within the Agfest committee. I would like to encourage everyone and anyone to attend the operational Agfest meetings as your input and ideas are very much wanted. It has been brought to my attention that there are a few people that think they aren't allowed to attend meetings because they don't have a vote anymore. I would like to encourage everyone to attend so we can have the most input and feedback on progress of organising our event.

By the time my next report is being read I imagine the work load will be very much different and wheels will definitely be turning!

Owen Woolley
Agfest Chairman 2018





YAPN had a great networking dinner on September 5th in Burnie hosted by Peter Damen from Kindred Organics. Just under 20 young professionals attended from around the region catching up on local industry information and hearing from Peter about the success of his business.

In October there will be a networking dinner in Launceston hosted by Rafe Bell, General Manager of TP Jones. Come along and network with like minded professionals and hear Rafe's career journey and challenges that he has faced that spanned from Western Australia to returning home and growing a successful agricultural retail business. Register on our Facebook page, we would love to see you there!

Early in the New Year the North West crew are looking to host a field trip, visiting a few successful businesses. If you are interested please email info@yapn.com.au.

Join us on Facebook or follow us on twitter @youngagnetwork to keep up to date on events near you, scholarships or job opportunities.



Congratulations to Tamar Rural Youth member, Emily Nixon, who won the Federal Group Trainee of the Year award, at the Tasmanian Training Awards at the Wrest Point Casino on Friday night. Emily, third from the right in the photo below, will now head off to the Australian Training Awards in Canberra, in November, along with other state award winners, and we wish both Emily and the other winners all the very best!

Sorell

Sorell is getting along nicely and are currently getting ready for a busy couple of months that lay ahead, we are actively collecting donations from some great local businesses all willing to help support the club with our up coming raffle to raise funds for the club. We will also be supporting the Sorell school's fair in November, in which we will be having a stall to promote Sorell Rural Youth and Rural Youth as a whole, and we will also be having a couple of events at the show.

Our next meeting is set for October 9th at the Pawleena hall, every one is welcome to come along.

Dave Lucas

Annual Shooting Competition

On the Sunday the 24th of September we held our annual rifle and shotgun competition at the Bracknell gun club. We had a great turn out of competitors come and compete in the rain and wind. It was a close competition between everyone.

The winners

Female rifle—Kat Cenin

Female shotgun—Emma Millen

Male rifle—Stuart Cresswell

Male shotgun—Stuart Cresswell

Overall winner Stuart Cresswell

A huge thank you to everyone who came out on the day and continue to support the competition, also a very special thank you to all our sponsors.

Stuart Cresswell

Rural Youth Competitions Coordinator

Letters to the Editor

What a great article on John Allwright written by Judy.

John grew up on a property just out of Bothwell "Glen Quoin" before moving to Westbury. The Allwright family were very highly respected members of our community and we were very much poorer when they moved.

John was a person who was years ahead of his time, Agriculture and the Community is much richer thanks to John.

John Pilcher



North Motton

G'day everyone,

Well we have been flat out this month with the club organising the animal nursery for the Ulverstone show trying to find cute animals for the kids to enjoy.

We have also welcomed home Brigid from Switzerland and can't wait to hear some of the great things she got up to.

Congratulations goes to Peter Damen on winning the Young Farmer of the Year Competition! Ethan placed 5th and Korey placed 9th. Well done guys bigger and better next year!

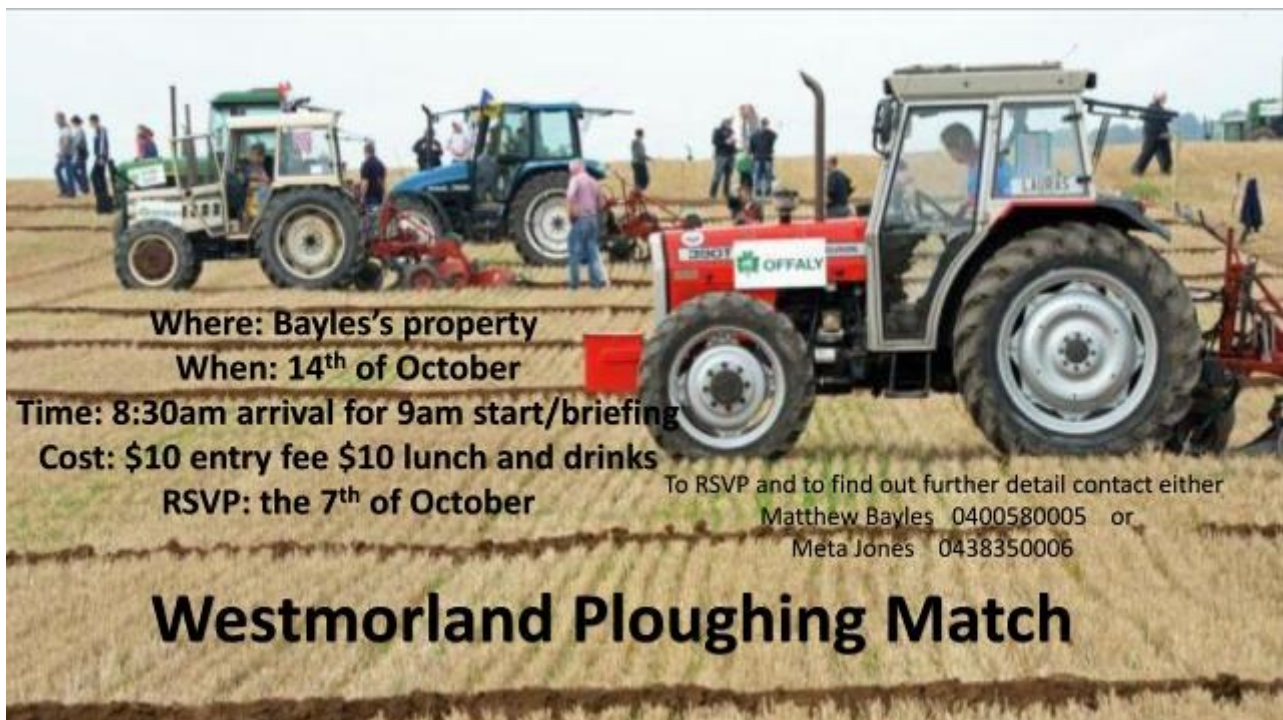
That is it from us up here on the coast. Our next meeting will be November 9th, venue to be announced.

Cheers from everyone at North Motton!

2017 SEMI FINALISTS

Ricoh Business
Centre Hobart
**Community
Group of the Year
Award**

The Agfest Committee is a
Semi-Finalist in the Ricoh
Business Centre Hobart
Community group of the Year
Award! We are in excellent
company and wish all the
other Semi-Finalists the best of
luck!



Where: Bayles's property
When: 14th of October
Time: 8:30am arrival for 9am start/briefing
Cost: \$10 entry fee \$10 lunch and drinks
RSVP: the 7th of October

To RSVP and to find out further detail contact either
Matthew Bayles 0400580005 or
Meta Jones 0438350006

Westmorland Ploughing Match

Brigid Worldon — Switzerland Study Tour

Wow what an amazing 9 weeks it has been!! I absolutely loved Switzerland and am so appreciative to Rural Youth and Betta Milk for this opportunity. I highly recommend that any members that are thinking of going on exchange to definitely do so - it is a once in a life time opportunity to experience first hand the culture and agriculture of a different country, an experience no other tourist would be able to achieve.

It is so hard to just think of one highlight from my trip because every day I learnt or experienced something new but I loved that all the families that I stayed with were so welcoming and involved me in their everyday lives and we built a relationship that will last a lifetime. With every family I got to see so many different areas of Switzerland and what they are known for, from milking sheep and goats to hiking the alps 3000 meters above sea level to bottling honey, cheese making, the list goes on. I loved every moment of this life changing experience it was so very different to home but it was great to be able to bring some ideas back with me but also share some with my host families over there as well.

Thank you !!



**JOIN KINGBOROUGH-HUON AND BRIGHTON
RURAL YOUTH FOR A FUN DAY AT
REDBANKS
OCTOBER 21ST, 2017**

Have a go at paintballing and the obstacle course during the day . Then stay for the afterparty - BBQ provided for gold coin donation, cash bar. BYO swag.

\$60 PP for paintballing - includes 300 paintballs, more can be purchased on the day.

Please RSVP to Kaysie wood on 0408297021 with proof of payment by 16/10/17 to reserve your place.

BSB:017 531 Account Number: 4819806
Account Name: Kingborough Huon Rural Youth



Zoe Newman – Austria Study Tour Report

It's hard to put into words how getting on my first plane felt. First time flying international and first time flying alone, all in one go. I hugged, kissed and waved my family good bye and as I walked down to my first plane it all became so real. A trip of a life time was right in front of me and there's no way I felt ready.

My first flight was 1 hour and 15 minutes from Launceston to Melbourne and little did I know that the next two planes I would travel on would make this one look like a tin can. Boarding my plane to Vienna I was surprised to come across a familiar face, who lives about 40 minutes away from me, it's such a small world. After 21 hours, I finally arrived in Vienna, where I got off the plane, collected my luggage and got that all important stamp in my little blue book. Through security and into a huge crowd of people, with signs waiting to meet the people from my flight, and there she was - my first host.

We instantly became friends, just like I'd met her before somewhere. She welcomed me with a huge smile and open arms. Her name was Isobel and she was a crop farmer with great English, which was a huge shock. But I soon learnt that speaking slower and simply was a good idea, and it's something I would be doing a lot of over the coming weeks. A short visit to her house to meet her family and her two Hungarian vizslas. Then we were off again into her local town just outside of Vienna, to deliver some of her produce, which includes capsicum, eggplant, and tomatoes. Isobel is also very interested in horses and trains people to ride them. I got to see some beautiful Austrian horses, and I learnt about what the different breeds were used for. It was a great first day in Austria even though I spent most of the day getting in the wrong side of the car and jumping out of my skin every time she drove around a roundabout the opposite way.

We ended the day with a traditional dinner of bread, meat and cheese at one of the local vineyards.

A new day and a new place to stay. I said goodbye to Isobel and hopped on a train. It was only a short train ride but to be truthful I was terrified. I had no idea where to get off, no idea how the trains worked and I was really scared to ask someone where I had to go. 15 minutes into my train ride I asked a lady sitting opposite me where I should get off and she was lovely, she asked me where I was from, and all about the exchange program. She also helped me onto my next train and it made me realise, there will be many times I need to ask for help and that sometimes it's not as hard as it seems.

I stayed in Vienna for the night and met some of the other IFYE'S (INTERNATIONAL FARMING YOUTH EXCHANGE). Olivia from America, Helen and Rebekah from England and Peppi from Finland. I also met Lydia the lovely lady who has been organising my exchange from the other side of the world. It was great to meet them all and learn not only about Austria but the type of people Austria attracts and why the other girls picked to come to Austria. That's the most frequent question I get asked, "why did you pick Austria?". The first time someone asked me this I had to think about it. Why did I pick Austria? After hosting three girls from Austria, one from Switzerland and now one from Norway, I learnt so much about the world and even my own country and state. I really enjoyed being a host and thought maybe I need to see it from the other side. But I never thought I'd apply to go on my own exchange, until I met Eva Sallinger, one of the Austrian exchangees I hosted. She spoke about her dairy farm and how she had the biggest in her area with 45 cows. I questioned Eva and said "the smallest?" But she meant the biggest. I said, "I've



Zoe Newman – Austria Study Tour Report

got to see how you live off 45 cows." It sounded incredible and it's crazy to think that was a year ago and now here I am in Austria about to see Eva's 45 cows.

Not a cow in sight at my second host farm, in Steinhaus - a small town 2 hours from Vienna. It's one of the biggest pig fattening farms I've seen so far, with over 1000 pigs. Buying pigs weighing 30 kilograms and selling them at 130-150 kilograms. Along with crops and forest land they owned 100 hectares of land altogether. Austria's pig farms make up 2% of Europe's breeding pig population. Which I think is crazy because I've seen so many pig farms. Pig farming is very common in the flatter areas of Austria. This beautiful family didn't just have pigs, they also had a few pets, which included goats, ducks and many cats and kittens. With young children and managing such a huge farm they were like super humans, so I really enjoyed lending a hand where I could, even if it was just entertaining the kids for a few hours while they were in the field. My second day with them was the highest temperature I've experienced so far and this was the day we were harvesting the barley straw. It was so hot that the neighbours field even caught on fire. Stacking the trailer 8 layers high and 36 bales in each layer, we ended the day by doing 500 bales or so which was only half the field, but with little rain this year Martin my host dad said he has had a lot more in the previous year.

In the next week, I moved to a new farm and it also had pigs, but this time with piglets. With around 90 pigs, the family had 7 breeding sows and 1 bore. The male pig is only used to bring the sow on heat, and then the farmers use semen to inseminate the sows. All the breeding farms I have visited use this system and I found it very interesting. Most of the dairy farmers with smaller dairy farms also use semen, because it's more expensive for them to

feed a bull all year than it is to buy the semen.

The baby pigs are castrated in the first few days of being born. After 4 weeks they are taken off the mothers and are fed a diet of hay, oats, and barley. On some farms they are also fed soya beans. This family lived in Gmunden and it had a dairy farm right around the corner. Whilst here I got to stay and become friends with a girl named Helen, who was from England, she lived on a dairy farm and had Holstein cows. When our host Doris asked us what we would like to see we both said we would like to see the piglets and a dairy farm if that was possible. In the next few days we visited my first dairy farm in Austria and I fell in love with the cows and the dairy farms straight away. This farm had 30 fleckvieh cows, which is a big farm for this area. The biggest dairy farm in Austria has 300 cows. The fleckvieh are a dual-purpose breed, the cows are for milking while the bulls are fattened up to 750 kilograms and are sold to the slaughter houses for meat. Some farmers focus on milk production and sell their bull calves at 4-5 weeks of age. In the flatter parts of Austria, the tanker can collect the milk every 2nd day, but higher in the mountain sometimes it's a little hard for the tanker to access the farms, so the family take the milk down to an area where they can meet the tanker closer to the milk factory.

After seeing a dozen or so fleckvieh farms, I was really interested in seeing what other breeds the farmers use for milk. My next farm was in Mittersel with 6 cows, 2 goats and a few chickens, this farm milked all year round, with the rest of their cows in the mountain for the summer. My host Alexandra took me to see so many beautiful parts of her area in Austria. We drove up to see her boyfriend's cattle which were also in the mountains for the summer. This time there were no fleckvieh they were pinzgauer cattle, another breed that is commonly milked here.

When we got back to her farm I got to help her



Zoe Newman – Austria Study Tour Report

family harvest their hay and silage. It's so different in the mountains as they can't use tractors or any big implements. The use specialised equipment to cut and rake the grass as well as to collect it and take it to the barn to store in concrete pits. The silage is then covered in a thick plastic and is weighed down with sand bags. After being weighed down for two or three day the silage pit drops a metre, as the silage starts to ferment. The angle of some of the fields were crazy. It's so steep, and is incredible to see how they store their hay and silage.

Moving on to my next amazing family who had Holstein and fleckvieh cows. My host mum made 80 -90kgs of her own cheese a day and sold it to people from her local town. I've now seen a few different dairy farms and apart from the size of the farms, the major difference to Australian dairy farms, is that the cows are inside most or all year round. On a lot of the smaller farms the cows have access outside as they please, but always have access to the barn. Cows on bigger farms are usually inside all year round as the farmers don't have big enough outside areas for all the cows. But in comparison to Australian farms they may be small. But with around 104 people per square kilometre, Austrians are very land efficient. The crops are so close together using every piece of land that they can. Most of the time you can drive through the middle of the local towns and find a random maize crop where the land wasn't being used for anything else.

Because it's time to harvest a lot of the crops, I got to help a lot of the families harvesting things like hay, silage and straw, I also got to ride with one of the contractors in a combine harvester which I really enjoyed. While staying here in Klangfurt, I was lucky enough to stay with another of the IFYE'S. This time it was Olivia from America. We got along like best friends and it was great to have someone once again who could speak fluent English.

Arriving at Eva's farm, her 45 cows has now turned into 120 which is quite big for Austria. I was so excited to see her and learn all about her farm. Her family have selectively bred their cows for 20 years and use a variety of different semen for their cows. After seeing a cow calve we checked out her local area and planned to go to Hallstatt the next day. Hallstatt is so beautiful and the city has been even recreated the city in china.

It's incredible to think this is just scratching the surface of what I've seen and done over the past two months, because I've had the experience of a life time and with one month to go I can't wait to see more of Austria's beautiful agriculture and what it has to offer.



October 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31					1
2 WT Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Sorell Meeting	10	11 Agfest Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Westmorland Meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Club Contacts

Northern Region

Hagley	Jacqueline Hodgkinson	0429 524 243
Western Tiers	Stuart Cresswell	0488 666 365
Westmorland	Matthew Bayles	0400 580 005

North West Region

Devonport	Mitchell Grey	0458 658 287
North Motton	Ethan Williams	0448 320 628

Southern Region

Brighton	Breeanna House	0447 774 077
Central Highlands	Oliver Haigh	0487 928 844
Kingborough—Huon	Kaysie Wood	0408 297 021
Oatlands	Brady Robins	0487 111 327
Sorell	Dave Lucas	0459 467 282





Community Safety

A new community Facebook group has been created to connect residents in the Carrick & Hagley area - Carrick Hagley Community Facebook

Free fridge magnets of emergency contacts and booklets on 'Safe and Secure Living' are available from Council and Carrick, Hagley and Westbury post offices.

Meander Valley Council Hard Waste Collection goes online

The annual Hard Waste Collection Service offers residents an opportunity to dispose of a range of items that cannot be collected via the regular kerbside service. Residents are reminded that they must register in order to receive the Hard Waste Collection Service. You can register online by visiting Council's website at www.meander.tas.gov.au or by phoning Council on 6393 5300. Residents can also register for assistance if required.

Lifting the Lid - Film Competition for ages 13-18

Themes: Mental Health - Stronger Together - Celebrating the resilience of Tasmanian communities
Short films can be 2 mins max and filmed on any device - entries close 29 Sept.
www.facebook.com/liftingthelidonmentalhealth

MV Community Radio 96.9FM

MVFM's AGM is on 14 September at Deloraine House from 7:30pm. Interested community members are welcome to attend. Newsletter attached.

Seniors Week 16-22 October

An exciting range of social, cultural and educational activities for older Tasmanians. Lots happening in Deloraine and surrounds, Programs available from Council or online at www.cotatas.org.au/programs-events/sw2017/

Tasmania's only Creative Ageing Festival 16-22 October

showcasing innovative arts and health programs for older adults living in the community. Know someone who's a bit isolated? Encourage them to participate in the wide variety of events on offer and reconnect with their community. Programs can be obtained at the Meander Valley Life office or downloaded from the Deloraine House website. For more information phone 0409 891 118.

WORKING BEE



7th & 8th October

Quercus Park

For more information contact Ricky Edson on 0447 783 202

COME JOIN THE HERD!
NEW FRIENDS FUN TRAINING & TRAVEL
Are you between **15 & 30** years old?
Join Rural Youth - There's a club near you!
Find out more about the great opportunities you can get involved with by joining Rural Youth
ruralyouth.com.au
6331 6154 Rural Youth Tasmania

