

Young Farmer 2017 Final

The 2017 Young Farmer Finals are gearing up to be an exciting event, with 10 very competitive finalists all coming from different backgrounds with in the rural sector.

September 23rd will see them battle it out against each other in a variety of modules showcasing skills from many different aspects of the agriculture industry.

Come along to Quercus Park

from 9am to watch and cheer the competitors on as they battle for the title of Young Farmer of the Year!

2017 Competitors:

- Amanda Bayles
- Andrea Craigie
- Cassandra Bresnehan
- Ethan Williams
- Ella Curtain
- Korey Stratton
- Matthew Bayles
- Peter Damen
- Richard Petrie
- Will Baxter

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Pistol Shooting Comp Winners

 $L-R: Ash\ Reynolds, Andrea\ Craigie,\ Jeremy\ Jacobs,\ \&\ Joe\ How$

We are pleased to announce that we are a finalist in 2017 Business Excellence awards in the "Building Communities" category. This is an outstanding achievement for Rural Youth and we wish all finalists the very best.





Contact Us:

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(03) 6331 6154

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

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

Another month has flown by and the new board is getting in to the swing of things. We have held our first meeting under the new structure and have begun appointing members to directorships. There were some tough decisions to make, with great applications coming in. The board has asked each member who applied to provide a plan for the year directors are announced, unfortunately you will all have to wait another couple of weeks to find out who achieved what. There are also a couple positions still available. So, if you think you have what it takes to take on marketing or leadership and training email Head Office for an application form.

Agfest brainstorming was a huge success, with the group getting through a massive 48 agenda items on time! There were some great ideas for next year and everyone is looking forward to a successful event with new and exciting initiatives on the table. Well done to Owen and Dale on facilitating a very productive weekend. Better luck next time boys on the 8-ball table, Rural Youth brass were just too good on the night.

Over the next few weeks we have some great events coming up. With competitions, working bees and of course, Young Farmer. Competitors will be competing on September 23 at Quercus. Come along and watch as they test their agriculture skills. As always, there will also be the Young Farmer dinner that night. A great excuse to dress up and have fun.

The Graeme Tole Award is still open, so if you know a member who represents the very best of the organisation, nominate them! Contact Head Office for more information and the nomination form.

Ashley Evans State President





















CEO

This month I start by congratulating Emma Egan and Samantha Baldock (YAPN Secretary and Treasurer) for the successful finance forum they held in Ulverstone on August 9. Over 30 attended and the feedback received on the night and since has been really positive. Follow YAPN on FB and Twitter to see what is happening next – events are being planned throughout the State. The YAPN website will also be finished in the next couple of weeks – go to www.yapn.com.au and find out more.

Behind the scenes we are working on getting some much needed infrastructure maintenance and upgrades done at Quercus. Once these plans have been finalised and we have more information we will let you know more.

I have entered both Agfest and Rural Youth in the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards in the Outstanding Event and Building Communities categories respectively. I have also entered Rural Youth in the Community Achievement Awards for Community Group of the Year. Entries are now closed and I will let you know how the applications go in the coming months. Obviously it would be great to be a finalist or winner of any of these Awards, but by completing the application and detailing all of the great things you do it continues to raise the awareness in the broader community of what we are about.

Speaking of Agfest – congratulations to Owen and Dale on the success of Brainstorming – it was a great to see the excitement. Topics were thought provoking and the contribution from all in the room was outstanding! I am really looking forward to seeing what the team achieve in the coming months. I only sat in on one session, but as always it reminded me of why I love this job so much. I am constantly blown away with the contribution our members make and the great things you achieve. Brainstorming was a perfect example of what we are best at, working hard and getting results while having a good time! Special mention to Sarah, Josh, Kara and Simone – the catering you all provided over the weekend was second to none!

Young Farmer Finals and Shooting Comp are only a few weeks away. Good luck to all who are involved.







Vermeer













Karen Robinson





Hello All,

A month has now passed since taking on the role as Chairman, while things haven't been overly hectic I have been busy understanding the full extent of the position.

Since my election as Chairman, committee selections night has taken place and elections of roles to those who applied. By now hopefully everyone has been informed of their success from that night.

The following night was State Ball, which was a lovely evening for all who attended. It was great to see so many new faces attending this great event. Well done to all involved in the organising and running of the night!

Most recently we held the annual "Brainstorming" weekend at Quercus. The weekend was very well attended and I would like to thank all those who attended the event, helping make the weekend a success and bring about positive results for this great event.

I would like to thank all those that helped organise and run Brainstorming, your help and input to the weekend was greatly appreciated! To all those that missed out or forgot to lodge an application for a role on the Agfest committee, the second round of applications is currently open till the close of business on the 7th of September, I encourage everyone to consider the vacant roles on the committee and put your hand up and help run this amazing event. Till next time.

Owen Woolley

Agfest Chairman 2018

Positions still vacant on the Agfest Committee

Committee Catering Asst Community Groups Asst Ag Show Council

Waste Management Coordinator

Waste Management Asst Parcel Pick Up Asst

Water Cart Asst

Craft Coordinator

Assistant Finance

Back Ticket Box Asst

Assistant Safety & Compliance

Power Coordinator

Power Asst

Schools Liasion Coordinator

School Liasion Asst

Ag Artwear Coordinator

Ag Artwear Asst

Merchandise Coordinator

Merchandise Asst Assistant Features

Central Arena Coordinator

Central Arena Asst

Heritage Coordinator

Heritage Asst

KAAP Coordinator

KAAP Asst

RY Feature Coordinator

RY Feature Asst







Do you want to grow professional networks across the agricultural sector?

Do you want skills and knowledge to assist with employment opportunities and career advancement?

Join us now! YAPN was founded in March 2017 by Rural Youth and Tasmanian Women in Agriculture to provide like minded young ag professionals the opportunity to discuss and unravel the issues specific to their demographic and/or career.

YAPN hosted it's first event in Ulverstone in August focussing on finance in business. Kindly supported by Rural Bank, over 30 people heard Dean Lalor (Rural Bank), Andrew Radford (ATR Accounting) and Penny Williams (Independent Farm Consultant) discuss the key issues young professionals are facing in the agriculture sector. YAPN is also partnering with SproutX to highlight the Agreed apportunities in agriculture. In Mary

YAPN is also partnering with SproutX to highlight the Agtech opportunities in agriculture. In May and August networking and information events were held in Launceston and Hobart with guest speakers including Sam Trethewey, Pip Courtney and Jesse Reader.

Events coming up include:

SEPTEMBER:

SOUTH: Howard Hanson: Hobart Show Grounds

NORTH WEST: Casual networking Dinner

OCTOBER:

NORTH: Casual networking Dinner

NOVEMBER

SOUTH: Finance in Business

Join us on twitter @YoungAgNetwork and Facebook or join up as a member at www.yapn.com.au to keep up to date and receive invitations to every event.

North Motton

G'Day everyone,

Well what a month it has been for everyone up here on the coast!

A massive congratulations goes to our President Ethan Williams on being awarded a Study Tour to Canada, Vice President Peter Damen being awarded the Study Tour to the UK and our Secretary Renee Latham for being awarded the Self Nominated Study Tour where she will be going to the mainland to undertake a Jillaroo course. Our Treasurer Jake Williams was also voted Rural Youth's Most Outstanding Member for the organisation. Planning has begun for the animal nursery at the Ulverstone show, if anyone has any unique animals they would like to bring please contact one of our members. That's all from us.

Cheers from everyone at North Motton! **Ethan Williams**

Pistol Shooting Competition

The pistol shooting day was a great success and a great day for those who took part and competed. It was a great experience to be able to shoot the guns, with some firing a pistol for their first time.

I wouldn't have been able to put this great day together without the help of Jye Earnshaw who organised the pistol club and helped instruct us through the day, Jye also couldn't wait to get his guns out to show off to us.

I would also like to personally thank Van Diemen Pistol club for hosting us, they provided us with a great facility and we look forward to heading back there again in the future.

Our winners for the day were: Men:

- Jeremy Jacobs
- Joe How

Women:

- Andrea Craigie
- Ashley Reynolds

Stuart Cresswell





Dust off your leg warmers and tease your hair!
The 2017 Rural Youth Young Farmer Dinner is
taking you back to the 80's!



Date: 23rd September

Time: 6pm

Location: Function

Centre, Quercus Park

Dress: 80's

Price: \$45 per head

Please rsvp and make payment to Head Office

(reception@rurayouth.com.au)

by Friday the 15th September

John Allwright was Agfest's first Patron, but who is he?

"John Allwright Drive" (the main drag at Quercus) was named after our first Patron, John Allwright, but time has passed and not everyone knew him or what his association was with Rural Youth - so here is the story:

John Allwright was a prominent farmer from Hagley, whose four children were members of the Hagley Rural Youth Club in the late 70's early 80's. John was known as the 'gentleman farmer' and at that time was the President of Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association.

The Rural Youth office was still being administered by the Department of Agriculture in Hobart and manned by a string of volunteer secretariats. The Department were in cost cutting mode and intended to terminate the service to Rural Youth, which would have meant the end of the organisation. John Bell, also a Hagley farmer, was State President during this time (1981) and approached John Allwright about bringing the Rural Youth office up to the TFGA office in Launceston and assisting the organisation to make an approach for funding to provide secretarial services. Because of John's profile and his talent for cooperation and calm negotiation, the negotiations were successful and the government agreed to fund the organisation an amount of \$14,000 per annum, as long as it was under the umbrella of the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association.

The office was moved to Launceston and I was employed by TFGA as Assistant to the Accountant and 'farmed out' to Rural Youth on an 'as needs basis'. At that point I was spending approximately 2 hours a day on Rural Youth doing their administration. This move provided stability and continuity, which the organisation had lacked for some years.

Mr. Allwright continued as a friend and advisor to Rural Youth during a vulnerable time and a strong promoter of Tasmanian Rural Youth. He was extremely influential in agripolitics and elected as President of the National Farmers Federation from 1988-1992. His resume read credentials a mile long, but a small snippet included: Chair of the Australian Special Rural Research Council, a



L—R: Len Dixon, John Allwright, Noel Beven at 1983 AGFEST Press Conference.

member of the Rural Development Task Force, involved in key international trade negotiations with the US, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Kuwait and was part of the government delegation to the 1990 GATT negotiations in Brussels. He was recognised nationally in 1982 when he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and the following year named Tasmanian Farmer of the Year for his role in the development of the poppy seed processing industry. In 1992 he was awarded the medal of Agriculture by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

'John Allwright Drive' was named in his memory after his death in March, 1994.

Judy McLean, OAM



The Australian Boarding Schools Association



Why not send your child to Boarding School?

Not only do Boarding Schools provide a holistic education, but the community living environment enriches the boarders' development and sets them up for life. The opportunity to mix with many different cultures, get amazing academic support and have well trained, excellent role models who look after all their needs, is something children just can't get at home.

Boarding Schools teach the understanding of cultural diversity, tolerance, outstanding communication and community living skills. Boarders also develop their independence and maturity.

Life long friendships are formed in Boarding Houses, with wonderful home like environments allowing the extension of family to include the many relationship they create, not only within their peer group but also with the younger boarders and the staff caring for them.

Boarding helps to develop:

- Confidence
- Community spirit
- Independence
- Social skills

- Cultural awareness
- Respect for others
- Self-motivation
- Responsibility
- A wide variety of interests.

Boarders feel that they have a:

- Great social life
- Enhanced education
- Close relationship with their family
- Friends for life
- Greater access to school facilities
- Good working relationship with teachers
- Wide variety of activities available

More information about the work of the Australian Boarding Schools Association can be obtained from our office.

Australian Boarding Schools Association

www.boarding.org.au absa@boarding.org.au 07 3205 4940

Brighid Worldon — Switzerland Study Tour

The time has gone buy so quickly, I am currently in my last week of exchange but by the time you all read this I will be back home. I am at my last host family which live in a small village called Hütten, located 40 minutes from Zurich. Sandra and Christoph along with their two daughters Flavia and Carmen, run a dairy farm with 20 original Brown Swiss milking cows on around 80 acres. Sandra is a stay at home mother that milks every morning and evening and does the farm work and Christoph is a dairy technician/ consultant for a company called Strickhof. He travels all over Switzerland to dairies and cheese factories when there is a problem with the milk like high cell counts or a problem with the machine, so he spends a lot of time away from home.

I was lucky enough to go with Christoph for a day to the Strickhof headquarters which is also a research facility and a school farm. One of the professors that spoke really good English gave me my own personal tour of the school which is under construction at the moment. He took me through the cow barn where they have a robot milking machine for the school students and on the other side they had a 4 aside herringbone for the researchers.

In total they will have 3 barns once the building is finished, where they will be able to record every detail about cows, pigs, chooks, sheep and horses in individual rooms that they can place the animal and all the data can be recorded right down to how much gas the animals make, it is going to be a state of the art facility.

I have also helped with the hay and silage making that was done during the week, it is a lot more manual labour here in Switzerland as it is too steep in some places for machines so it is done by hand, so we have been busy raking the grass into wind rows off of hills with a rake to where it is flat enough for them to collect with the tractor. It has been a great experience to work along side the family and they have been so excited in teaching and showing me about agriculture in Switzerland, and so appreciative of me helping with the work on the farm. Well that's all from me for now.







Tobias ten Bensel — Norway Study Tour

Tasmania to Norway

Waking up to a message to say that your flights have been cancelled is a little concerning, particularly when you are meant to embark on a journey to live on the other side of the world for 3 months. After an hour or two, I had my flights sorted again, minus one stop over. With a send-off from my father and sister at the airport, I was on my way to Melbourne and after a short changeover, I boarded my flight to Dubai.

I now have a greater understanding of the term "cattle class", as we were loaded into our seats four across, shoulder to shoulder and rows deep. I am never a good sleeper on long journeys, so there was only one thing to do.... make friends with the hostess on the plane. A few hours of conversation and extra food didn't go astray. Finally, after 22hrs of flight and 5hrs of stop overs, I was finally on the tarmac in Oslo. I joined the long line in the international passport control, as I watch all the EU passport holders just walk through an electronic gate. After a few minutes of waiting, a young woman in the line behind me spoke up and asked me "by any chance are you Australian?" Honestly, I could have believed that she was a mind reader or something, until she told me that she saw my Akubra hat and had to ask. Turns out I was standing next to a Queenslander! After some Auzzie chitchat, we were through the check point and down waiting for our baggage. Outside I met the mother of my first host family, Beate Eriksen



After throwing my pack and backpack in the boot of the car, I automatically turned on autopilot and went get into the "passenger side" of the car, which is obviously the wrong side. It was a half hour drive to my new home for the next couple of days. As we cruised along the highway, I had a quick tour and explanation of the landscape/city,

arriving to a picturesque white vertical weatherboard house, nestled in between small crop fields. Although they owned the land, the family leased out the land to the nearby farmer to grow his crops. Overwhelmed with jetlag, it was a struggle to keep my eyes open; just waiting till it was bedtime. Shortly after we arrived home, the rest of the family soon followed, Eline, Ingrid and Anne the three daughters of Beate and Ørjan Erikson.

The next day I had a lazy tour.... well adventure, to the local agricultural school. Both Eline and I had little knowledge about the school, never-the-less, Eline was able to read the Norwegian signs, as we made our way around the campus.

Over the next couple of days, I adventured through the city of Oslo with Eline and Ingrid, seeing places like the main theatre and the royal palace. The girls described the national day of celebration, held on 17th of May each year, where the main street in front of the palace is packed full of people, watching a large military display as well as school kids marching, celebrating the day that the Norwegian constitution was signed in 1814.

One evening, I had the pleasure of joining Ørjan to shoot clay targets at his local gun club. We were joined by Ørjan's shooting partner, Arvid Agnor and shot in a combination competition setup. After a few practice rounds, tricky shots and coaching from Ørjan and Arvid, we were straight into round one of the five spot combination. As each round progressed, I got better and better, to the amazement of my Norwegian coaches. To complete the night, we had to stop and refuel with a kebab.

It was time to pack my bags up for the first move, to stay with my fellow IFYE exchanges in city-centre Oslo hotel. Ingrid was kind enough to help me find my hotel. As we were a few hours early we did some more exploring of the city, with a quick tour of the wharf side area (a popular restaurant strip) and the seaside fort, before meeting some of my fellow exchangees in Oslo central station. Altogether we had five new IFYE's; Alistair (English), Pauline (German), Kaho-Shin (Taiwanese), Jasmin (Swiss), myself (Australian), as well as our two IFYE hosts Tone Margaret Ødegård and Isak Jerpstad. With everyone settled into our accommodation,



Tobias ten Bensel — Norway Study Tour

we set out to tour Oslo, visiting the Oslo Opera House as well as the Royal Palace. We all met for dinner at a restaurant (Olivia's) on the water-front strip, where we meet Jon Kåre Solås, another former IFYE. Dinner conversation varied from counties to work. After dinner we toured a little further into the upmarket waterfront district.

The next day we went to the Holmenkollen Oslo ski jump and watched people training on their roller skis as well as shooting, target practice for the Biathlon. We finished the day with a "barbecue" in the Vigeland Park, the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist and one of Norway's most popular tourist attractions.

Oslo to Kolvereid

Yet again I stuffed everything into my pack, ready to jet to the other side of the country and after a short flight from Oslo to Trondheim, I was met by Peter Fischer, his partner Stine Holms and their daughter Annabelle. With some quick introductions out of the way, we loaded into Pete's new Hyundai loniq, a fully electric car, one of many in Norway. The Norwegian government are subsidising electric transport to make a cleaner and greener future for Norway. Four hours driving and two stops for charging, we arrived at Lundseng Vestre, the family farm on which Stine had grown up. The farm had only just closed its dairy in the December of 2016.



On my first day in the Kolvereid region, both of my hosts were off to work and I was home alone. With nothing better to do than adventure, I headed out on a few small walks and eventually ended up saying g'day to the dairy farmer next door, Kurt Lundseng. Kurt had taken over the family dairy from his father 15 years ago. Previous to that he was a teacher, so his English was quite good for the area. We spoke for a few hours about his farm with its 25 milking cows, an average farm size in Norway.

Kurt's dairy still operated on the older manual system, where cows were locked into stalls and had to be manually attached to the milking gear. With only 25 cows to milk, there was a lot of down time; well time for another round of straight black coffee and more conversation. Kurt was quite proud of his newest tractor, a 175hp Valtra with all the bells and whistles; so proud I was sent on a drive down the road.



With the hours of light lasting all night, it allowed us to do all sorts of activities after Peter and Stine returned from work, a few hikes as well as going fishing till the point we forgot to check the time. One of the day trips we took was to Torghatten, known as "the Rock with the hole in it". The hole in the rock was a giant cavern, measuring 160m long, 35m high and 20m wide. The sheer scale was shown when people were walking around at the bottom, next to rocks the size of a small cars.

"According to the legend of the Helgeland mountains, Torghatten was formed when the troll Hestmannen, disappointed in love, shot an arrow after the young girl Lekamøya who ran away from him. The Troll-King in Mount Sømnafjellet saw this and threw his hat between them; the arrow went straight through the hat and formed the hole. The sun rose, and everyone was turned into stone."

I was lucky enough to join the county camp for Nord-trøndelag on the island of Jøa, a great display of how the 4H group works with kids, ranging from 14-18yrs. The camps were all about





Tobias ten Bensel — Norway Study Tour

coming together and making new friends, as well as seeing the friends that you haven't seen since last year. As I found out very quickly, the national sport for 4H is volleyball and I was out of my depth! It wasn't long after I arrived there was a call for "dinner time" but it was 4pm?! Well to my shock dinner is now at 4pm, which is quite standard for Norway. At dinner, I had the pleasure to meet the Alumni members for the region and who briefed me on some of the norms of Norway. The camps run from a Thursday to a Saturday during the school holidays and similar to the American summer



camps, they involve the kids in many different activities, some off-site as elected by the kids and others are just standard on-site activities.

Each night the Alumni run a canteen inside a hall, where there is often a band, quiz or music playing. The hall was a place to eat as well as play card games. Nightly, the clubs played off in a roundrobin of volleyball. With four courts playing and not enough umpires, I was contracted to fill in, having hardly any knowledge of the rules.

We spent the last day of the camp down by the water, where there was fishing, canoing, kayaking and an old fishing boat to go out on. There were also small challenges, like who can peel two potatoes the quickest. After a good day in the sun, we returned home.

I was lucky enough to join a crew from Midt Norsk Havbruk, working on a salmon farm lease. It was quickly evident how different it was to home, with the farm using an incredible amount of hands-on manual labour. It was incredible to see how advanced Huon Aquaculture was to the Norwegian fish-farming style. While I was on site, a beautiful big blue ship glided into the fish cages. I couldn't believe my luck! It was the new sister ship

to Huon Aquaculture's Ronja Huon. Ronja Ocean is only 3 months old, with the paint still gleaming like it had only just been painted the day before. It was great to see the improvements that the ship design team at Sølvtrans had come up, which will be included on the new vessel to be built for Tasmania, the Ronja Storm.

Just down the road from my host family, there was another dairy with 26 cows, however, the dairy was a little different to the normal dairy. It had a robotic milker, saving the farmer time every day, enabling him to lease more land and expand, building a bigger and better farm.

Stine took me on a short hike to the top of the hill behind the house, to where their family cabin was built. The cabin was nestled into the woods next to a highland lake stocked with trout. Nearby there was a little trout hut with a spot for a fire, with a wire grill to cook fish how it should be, fresh!

On my last day in the Kolvereid kommune it had been organised for me to see the local school farm VAL VGS. The farm was situated on a coastal property, with an ever increasing area, as the surrounding farms are closed. Val was a fully functioning farm, but with the added bonus that students could help and learn about the animals and the systems involved with farming in the modern world. I spent the day with the manager of the cow-house, helping with jobs like organising the feed to be placed into the allocated spots for the auto feeder and preparing the stall for a calf to be born in the days to come. The VAL cow-house used Lely dairy systems for both the robotic milker and the auto feeder.





September 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sorell Club Meeting						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					Young Farmer Finals	Shooting Comp
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Central Highlands Meeting					

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				
Sorell	Dave Lucas	0459 467 282				



Tasmanian Youth Local Government Forum – October school holidays.

Two free places available for Meander Valley young people

Meander Valley Council is looking to sponsor two local young people from Grades 9 or 10 who are interested in attending the upcoming conference to be held over 2 weekends in the October school break. This is an opportunity to further your public speaking, planning and problem solving skills and the confidence to contribute more to your school and community. Ideas and project proposals produced through the Forum will be presented to Councillors with the hope that some may be adopted by local governments throughout our State. There will also be some time to have fun. If you would like to be considered for these positions or would like more information, please contact Vicki Jordan (MVC) on 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au

Council Community Grants

Grants up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations for projects that address community needs through special events, sport and recreation and/or community development. Information and application forms are available from the Westbury Council Offices and www.meander.tas.gov.au. Applications for consideration in the next adjudication round should be lodged by 15 September 2017.

ReachOut.com

A new digital mental health service for young Australians and their parents. Instant access means no young person has to wait for support when they need it most www.reachout.com

CAST 2017- Art Exhibition

(Combined Art Societies Tasmania)

20 August - 29 October, Open Daily 10.30am - 4.00 p, Eskleigh Gallery, Perth

This annual event brings together works of all

mediums from art societies across Tasmania. Visiting public may view and purchase original Tasmanian art at realistic prices. Entry is free.

New vaccine to protect 15-19 year olds

A free Meningococcal W vaccine will be available for teenagers aged between 15 and 19 years. In line with the National Immunisation Program, Council will be delivering the vaccines to Grade 10 students at Deloraine High School, alongside the existing program for Grade 7 students. Council employs two nurses to administer the vaccines, both of whom are very familiar with the program, clocking up over twenty ve years of combined work experience. Council runs an annual immunisation program, comprising of three school visits each year. Grade 7 students are offered HPV, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines and, this year, Grade 10 students will be offered the Meningococcal W vaccine.

The program is expected to commence towards the end of term 3. If you are aged between 15 - 19 years and are not attending school or college, you are still eligible for the free vaccine through your general practitioner.

If you require records of vaccines administered via Meander Valley Council's program, you can submit an online request at www.meander.tas.gov.au or contact Council on 6393 5300 for a printed request form. Please note that Council does not hold any records of immunisations administered by a general practitioner or by other Council's through their immunisation programs. Residents are encouraged to contact their general practitioner when searching for immunisation records or to obtain further information on individual immunisation requirements.

