

TASMANIAN **WOMEN** IN AGRICULTURE

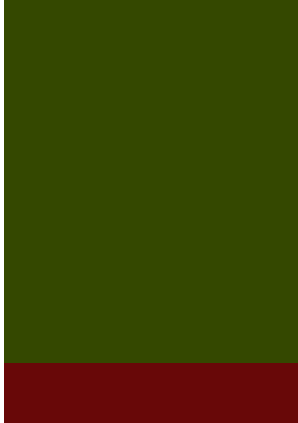


ANNUAL **REPORT** 2026

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING
TASMANIAN RURAL WOMEN



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

In agriculture, in rural community life, across Tasmania, women lead through connection, care, support, and everyday courage.

Recently, I was interviewed as part of the Illuminate Education program, where I was asked about my connection to the land, what the land means to me, the challenges it faces, and how we might design solutions. You might wonder why I share this in an annual report. As a long-time agronomist, my career has been deeply fulfilling, but my relationship with the land is more than professional. It anchors my identity, shapes my purpose, and offers space for recreation, reflection, and grounding. Those interview questions prompted me to think deeply about what we, as Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, stand for.

For many of us, our connection to the land is woven through family, food and fibre production, jobs and careers, recreation, and community. It is where we feel most at home. That is why the land matters, not just to me, but to so many of us in Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

At the end of my first year as Chair, this report gives me an opportunity to say a huge thanks to the wonderful members of the Executive for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Thank you, Deb Morice (Emeritus Chair) for your continued mentoring of us all, and for the support you have provided to me personally as I learn this role. You did an amazing job as Chair of the organising committee for the "Ladies Day" gathering held earlier in the year, so another round of applause and a big thanks to you and the wonderful team that put on the "Ladies Day".

To Amanda Bond, for keeping things on track, including me, and doing a wonderful job as Secretary. Your contributions have been invaluable, and while we will miss you, we wish you every success in your next chapter.

To Jeanette Reader, who finishes her term as Treasurer, thank you for your continued input and guidance in this very important role. Also, thanks for the help with all the invoices for milestone reporting. I couldn't have achieved it without you. We hope to see you taking on a less challenging role after the AGM.

To Anne Cresswell, our quiet achiever, thank you for putting your hand up. We are very grateful to have you on board. We look forward to your leadership in the Treasurer role after the AGM.

We also said goodbye to three executive members during the year, Melissa Edwards, Rosalie Raynor and Caitlin Johnston. Their contributions were greatly valued, and while we're disappointed to see them go, we understand the demands of balancing full-time careers and businesses, family and volunteer commitments. We thank them sincerely and wish them well.

On behalf of the Executive, I extend our thanks to our Executive Support Officer Sharon, and to Tania and Karen from Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) for the administration support. Volunteer organisations rely on strong behind-the-scenes support, and your work enables us to serve our members more effectively.

As an organisation TWiA can be proud of our achievements this past year. The highlight of our calendar was the "Ladies Day" Gathering held at Wesley Dale on 19 March 2026. The organising committee from the Meander Valley group, did a remarkable job in planning, fund raising, and delivering a truly special day and evening. I thank them for the many hours of work and dedication that went into pulling together such a successful event. The setting was beautiful, the early fog lifted, the sun came out, and the whole day felt like a celebration of who we are as Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

In partnership with RMCg and Optimum Standards, TWiA delivered a successful program under the Farm Business Resilience Program, supported by funding from the Tasmanian Government through the Strategic Industry Partnership Program (SIPP). This enabled us to support this initiative and provide development opportunities for our members. SIPP funding along with generous support from Simplot (Aust) has allowed us to continue to support and deliver leadership training through the Marcus Oldam Leadership Program (MORLP). We have two scholarship recipients heading away soon to complete their life changing experience.

TWiA continue to support the Agrifutures Rural Women's Award, providing both the Outstanding Contribution and the Encouragement Awards.

Throughout the year, the Executive has worked hard to maintain and strengthen relationships with our longstanding and emerging partners and stakeholders. There are so many partners that I don't want to do a list in case I accidentally miss someone out, as they are all important. We have represented you, our members, at numerous forums and industry meetings, including the Agriculture Strategy Roundtable, Supply Industry Engagement Group, Forum of Rural Stakeholders (FoRS), Safe Farming Reference Group, H5 Bird Flu Stakeholder Briefing, and the UTAS College Agribusiness Course Steering Group.

I extend my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to TWiA this past year. Your dedication, energy, and commitment continue to shape a strong, connected, and resilient community of Tasmanian women in agriculture. This year has reminded me that our greatest strength is not just what we do, it's how we do it, and who we do it with.

As I look to the year ahead, there will be new challenges, there always are, but also it will come with new opportunities to lead, to learn, to advocate, and to grow. As Tasmanian Women in Agriculture we can continue to grow through connection, through shared effort, and supporting and empowering each other. Thank you for everything you have given this year. I am proud of what we have achieved together, and excited for what we will create next.

With warm regards,

Sue Hinton

Chair
Tasmanian Women in Agriculture



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Sue Hinton
Chair



Deb Morice
Emeritus Chair &
Gathering 2026
Chair



Amanda Bond
Secretary



Jeanette Reader
Treasurer



Anne Cresswell
Executive Member

TREASURER'S REPORT

Another year has passed quickly, and this is my final report. Since taking on the role at the Scottsdale Panel unveiling in 2022, it has been a steep learning curve.

We have had two grants, Beyond the Farm Gate and a Leadership grant.

We have delivered on the Leadership Grant \$57,000 and are just winding up the Beyond the Farm Gate grant \$ 98,000 A big thank you to the Tasmanian Government for the opportunity to give women an opportunity like this.

The other major funding was for our Executive Officer \$135,000 (Sharon Symons), which we are part way through. This position has been a great asset for Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

I have been involved as treasurer for two gatherings, the Tamar Valley Gathering and the Ladies Day at Wesley Dale, which have been great for new members and reconnecting with other members. The Ladies Day has been an amazing change to our usual gathering format.

I hope the new treasurer takes the role further.

Thank you to our Auditors Craig Preece and Michelle Jove.

My thanks to the Executive members that I have worked with during my time. Very professional, inspiring and supportive.

Thank you to my two Chairs Deb Morice and Sue Hinton. Sue is always on the end of the phone with a good doggie story.

A special thankyou Deb for bringing me back in, in 2023, into a group of women I feel at home with.

Jeanette Reader

Treasurer

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture



AUDITOR'S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Tasmanian Women In Agriculture Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Committee Members

The names of the committee members in office at anytime during or since the end of the year are:

Deborah Morice (Emeritus)
Sue Hinton (Chairperson)
Amanda Bond (Secretary)
Jeanette Reader (Treasurer)
Caitlin Johnston (Scholarships officer)
Rosalie Rayner (Communications Officer)
Melissa Edwards (Public Officer)
Anne Cresswell (Assistant Treasurer)

Significant Changes

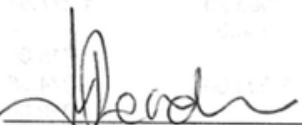
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

Operating Result

The profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$24,004.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:


Sue Hinton (Chairperson)


Jeanette Reader (Treasurer)

Dated: 13/8/26

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
INCOME			
Interest received	2	2,753.49	3,475.84
Grants		112,000.00	48,500.00
Memberships		4,609.43	1,750.08
Sponsorship		9,600.00	100.00
Sundry income	3	15.86	29.55
Tours		625.00	-
Gathering income		31,672.76	-
Gathering registration		4,451.23	-
Governance		150.00	-
Gross profit from trading	4	40.00	205.00
		<u>165,917.77</u>	<u>54,060.47</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Administration costs		6,434.27	3,633.25
Advertising		-	82.50
Auditors' remuneration		1,595.00	1,512.50
Bank charges		40.02	38.71
Catering expense		190.62	1,240.92
Beyond the farm gate		21,377.45	-
Conference fees		-	3,792.03
Executive expenses		840.89	781.75
Executive support officer		37,908.00	-
Fees and permits		528.90	86.22
Gifts and gratuities		2,361.87	2,466.75
Governance workshop		-	5,249.58
Gathering expense		35,371.93	1,352.78
Grants outward		250.00	-
Insurance		1,895.00	-
Leadership		12,261.99	-
Merchandise		524.50	1,227.83
Projects		250.00	-
Printing and stationery		-	715.00
Scholarships		3,860.65	35,074.36
Social Media Development		-	250.00
SIPP Admin		13,646.26	14,133.00
Sponsorships		300.00	2,700.00
Subscriptions		2,276.43	673.04
Travelling expenses		-	874.35
		<u>141,913.78</u>	<u>75,884.57</u>
		<u>24,003.99</u>	<u>(21,824.10)</u>
NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)		<u>24,003.99</u>	<u>(21,824.10)</u>
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year		<u>112,693.31</u>	<u>134,517.41</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank	5	136,697.30	112,693.31
		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		136,697.30	112,693.31
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	2026 \$	2025 \$
1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies		
The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by the committee. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.		
The statements are prepared on a cash basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.		
No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.		
2 Interest received:		
Other corporations	<u>2,753.49</u>	<u>3,475.84</u>
3 Sundry income:		
Commission on insurance	<u>15.86</u>	<u>29.55</u>
4 Gross profit on trading:		
Sales		
Sales	<u>40.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>
5 Cash at bank:		
Grant A/c 153382221	125,748.41	87,715.24
Working a/c 153499702	1,107.98	834.42
Gathering a/c 153499736	5,155.80	17,589.16
Clearing a/c 158264127	<u>4,685.11</u>	<u>6,554.49</u>
	<u>136,697.30</u>	<u>112,693.31</u>

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INC

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Tasmanian Women In Agriculture Inc, the members of the committee declare that the financial statements as set out on pages 3 to 5:

1. present a true and fair view of the financial position of Tasmanian Women In Agriculture Inc as at 30 June 2026 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1964; and
2. at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Tasmanian Women In Agriculture Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Chairman


Sue Hinton (Chairperson)

Treasurer


Jeanette Reader (Treasurer)

Dated:

11/8/26

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SIPP) AND OTHER GRANTS

SIPP 2 Leadership

In 2023 TWiA again obtained SIPP funding of \$57,000 for TWiA's Women's Leadership Program (SIPP 2). The total \$57,000 of funding has been expended. The funds were spent on scholarships and grants for:

- Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program (MORLP),
- Sprout Tasmania Producers Program,
- Tasmania Leaders I-Lead Program
- AgriFutures Rural Women's Award
- Rural Business Tasmania's Enable Program
- Support for TWiA's major networking event, the May 2024 Gathering in the Tamar Valley and the 2026 Gathering in the Meander Valley.

The Impact of Investing in Rural Women's Leadership in Tasmania

Funding to support rural Tasmanian women's participation in national leadership programs and industry events, such as the Australian Women in Agriculture Conference, the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program, the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, and other targeted development opportunities, delivers significant and measurable benefits to individuals, communities, and the broader agricultural sector. This investment strengthens Tasmania's rural economy, builds community resilience, and ensures that women, who are central to the productivity and social fabric of agriculture, have equitable access to the skills, networks, and recognition required to lead.

Support for programs such as the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program and the Australian Women in Agriculture Conference gives Tasmanian women access to high-quality training, national networks, and world class leadership development. These opportunities help women:

- strengthen strategic thinking, governance, and communication skills
- build confidence to lead teams, businesses, and community organisations
- gain exposure to new ideas, technologies, and industry trends
- develop the capacity to influence decision making at local, state, and national levels.

For many rural women, these programs are life-changing, opening doors that would otherwise remain closed due to cost, distance, or limited access to professional development in rural areas.

Funding ensures that Tasmanian women are visible and influential in national conversations about agriculture, climate resilience, rural policy, and community development. Participation in events like the Australian Women in Agriculture Conference allows Tasmanian women to:

- showcase local innovation and practices
- bring home new knowledge that strengthens local industries
- advocate for the unique needs of this diverse island and remote farming communities
- build partnerships that benefit Tasmanian agribusinesses and community groups

This visibility matters. It ensures that rural Tasmania is not left behind in national policy, research, and funding decisions.

Programs such as the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award play a crucial role in identifying and nurturing emerging leaders. Funding for Tasmanian finalists and project development:

- accelerates innovative ideas that benefit agriculture, community wellbeing, and environmental stewardship
- provides mentoring, media training, and business development support
- inspires younger women and girls to see leadership as possible and achievable
- strengthens the pipeline of women ready to step into governance roles across agriculture, natural resource management, and rural community organisations.

These awards don't just recognise excellence, they cultivate it.

When rural women grow their skills, networks, and confidence, entire communities benefit. Funded leadership opportunities contribute to:

- stronger, more resilient agribusinesses
- improved community governance and volunteer leadership
- increased innovation in farming practices and diversification
- greater economic participation and entrepreneurship
- more inclusive decision making that reflects the whole community

Women who return from leadership programs often become catalysts for local change, starting initiatives, mentoring others, and strengthening the social fabric of rural Tasmania.

Funding leadership and professional development opportunities for rural Tasmanian women is a strategic, high-impact investment. It builds capability, strengthens communities, supports innovation, and ensures that women, who are already at the heart of Tasmanian agriculture, have the tools, networks, and confidence to lead. Continued support will enable more women to participate in transformative programs, ensuring a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future for rural Tasmania.

SIPP 1 Beyond the Farm Gate

In the past year this program has contributed to the cost of a part-time administrative assistant provided by our partner organisation Rural Business Tasmania. It has also supported:

- Healthy governance training
- A Lifetime Ewe Management program has commenced (runs over two years)
- Resilient Farming Tasmania activities
- Palawa Kipli – Bush Tucker Tour

And we look forward to over the next couple of months:

- Bee keeping
- Low stress stock handling
- Safe driving courses

We have until the end of May 2027 until the completion of the Beyond the Farm Gate Program.

Executive Support Officer

This part-time position is funded by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. The total grant is for \$135,000 over three years with completion mid-year in 2028. This is an exciting opportunity for TWiA to have consistent, professional support to enable the executive to more efficiently support our members.

Sue Hinton

**Chair
Tasmanian Women in Agriculture**

Strategic Industry Partnership Program (SIPP) is funded by:



MEMBERSHIP

This year, TWiA has continued to ensure the accuracy and efficiency of our membership database managed through Wix. This is essential to ensuring that our communications are targeted, reliable, and that our membership management processes remain smooth and effective.

Data suggests that in the past year, we have:

Gained **58** members

Had **63** members cancel memberships.

We have recently added a new membership option to our website.

The **Annual Corporate Membership** is for up to 4 employees per organisation, that can interchange for different events. We hope that this new tier of membership will appeal to rural businesses and organisations, and encourage new memberships.

Strengthening and expanding our membership will remain a key priority moving forward. Plans for 2027 include:

- Continuing to improve data insights to better understand and meet member needs.
- Growing our membership and encouraging younger women entering agriculture to connect with TWiA.
- Strategies to retain a greater number of current members.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organisation. They ensure we can support, connect, and champion Tasmanian women in agriculture more effectively than ever before.

THE GATHERING 2026

The Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWIA) Meander Valley Ladies Day, held on 19 March at the stunning Wesley Dale property, was an outstanding success and a true celebration of connection, community, and agriculture.

Set against one of the most picturesque March days imaginable, Wesley Dale provided the perfect backdrop for an event that brought together sponsors, exhibitors, and patrons in an atmosphere of warmth, collaboration, and inspiration.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our valued sponsors whose generous support made this event possible. Your commitment enabled us to deliver a high-quality experience that was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you for your support of women in agriculture.



To our exhibitors, thank you for showcasing your products, services, and innovations with such passion and professionalism. Your presence added depth and vibrancy to the day, creating meaningful interactions and opportunities for all attendees. The feedback from guests highlighted how much they valued the diversity and quality of the exhibitor offerings.

To our patrons and guests, thank you for your enthusiasm and participation. With a full attendance, the energy throughout the day was exceptional. The testimonials received following the event have been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting the welcoming atmosphere, engaging program, and the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals across the agricultural sector.



We are incredibly proud of what was achieved. This event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the TWIA Meander Valley committee. As a small but committed group, their passion, teamwork, and attention to detail ensured the seamless delivery of a truly memorable day.

Ladies Day at Wesley Dale has not only strengthened connections within our community but has also reinforced the important role women play at the heart of agriculture. It is events like these that continue to build momentum, foster collaboration, and celebrate the achievements of our industry. Thank you once again to everyone involved in making this day such a resounding success.

Deb Morice

**Emeritus Chair & Gathering 2026 Chair
Tasmanian Women in Agriculture**



MARCUS OLDHAM RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS



**MARCUS
OLDHAM**
We mean business.

On the 21st of May, past and future participants of the Tasmania Women in Agriculture Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program came together at Camp Clayton for an inspiring evening of connection, reflection, and shared experiences within the agricultural industry.

The dinner provided a valuable opportunity for women involved in the program to network, build relationships, and celebrate the impact MORLP continues to have across Tasmania's agricultural community.

A highlight of the evening was a heartfelt presentation from Caitlyn Badcock, who spoke about her personal experience within the program. Caitlyn shared insights into her journey, the opportunities MORLP has provided, and the confidence and growth she has gained through participating. Her speech was both inspiring and relatable, offering encouragement to future participants preparing to begin their own leadership journeys.

The evening also celebrated the announcement of the 2026 MORLP winners, Olivia Cripps and Libby Cooper. Both women were recognised for their involvement in agriculture and their commitment to leadership, with attendees excited to see them begin their MORLP journey.



The dinner created a welcoming and supportive atmosphere where everyone from different backgrounds within agriculture could come together, learn from one another, and strengthen the growing network of leaders in the Tasmanian agricultural industry and community.

Overall, the evening was a wonderful celebration of community, leadership, and the ongoing success of the Tasmania Women in Agriculture MORLP program.



Proudly supported by
Tasmanian State Government and the Strategic Industry Partnership
Program, and Simplot Australia.



LIFETIME EWE MANAGEMENT

I have really enjoyed this course!

If you ever get the chance to do it, I would recommend it.

As a farmer that works with my Hubby and Dad on the farm, and 140 cows/calves and 800 ewes + lambs it is great to get off farm and talk to other people. Like always farmers and great characters to be around. There are some young females in our group and they are so passionate about Agriculture, it is great to see.



Sarah a vet from Longford & Northern Midlands Veterinary is running the course and she has been brilliant. It is great to see a vet who is passionate and focusing on the Ag animal side of things. Our group has one more session to go!

Over the past 12 months we have covered the whole cycle of the ewe's health, premating, mating, pregnancy, lambing, lactation, raising her lamb, marking, weaning, and then doing it all over again.

On our farm we are currently lambing at the moment, the weather gods have been kind to me this year, it is all going relatively smoothly, only a few lambs have been stuck, (mainly twins fighting over who wants to get out first!)





We pre test and have done for years, and are matching our feed to our twins' mums as they will need more than our singles. We covered the options for pain relief at marking time. Worm testing our animals is a key to understanding what is going on. I would rather do a worm test to see if I have to drench, than the cost of drenching and the time it takes to do.

At lambing time, I now have a large vaccine gun, attached to a flow pack, so I can easily give the ewes the right amount.

The key is to keep our ewes in good condition throughout the year, as they are the powerhouse behind the sheep industry. Thank you to TWiA for helping fund this course with the grant from the Tasmanian government grant and AWI for putting the course on.

Anne Batterham

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture



AGRIFUTURES RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

The Agri-Futures Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading program for recognising and empowering women who are making a meaningful impact in rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities. Through funding, professional development and leadership opportunities, the award supports women to grow their initiatives and create lasting change across rural Australia.

Amy Vickers and her project Well Beyond Service is this year's 2026 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Winner.

Amy a 26-year military veteran founded the program dedicated to supporting women who served in Defence, emergency services, and volunteer emergency roles. Trained as an Aviation Technician and later an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer for the Australian Navy, Amy's career and experiences have shaped her passion for helping others heal beyond their service roles.



Through five-day rural retreats in Tasmania, she creates peaceful spaces for reconnection, recovery, and community engagement. Her programs combine creative wellness activities such as equine interaction, art, yoga, and structured sessions to help participants embrace life beyond service-related illness or injury. Recognising the need for greater support for women after service, Amy brings an authentic and adaptable leadership style, driven by compassion and a commitment to building stronger, more connected communities.

Her work empowers individuals to rediscover wellness, belonging, and a renewed quality of life. Amy will go on to represent Tasmania at the National Finals held in Canberra on 8 September 2026. The National Winner will be awarded an additional \$20,000 Westpac grant and the National Runner Up, an additional \$15,000.

TWiA Encouragement Award

Alyssia Kennedy - Founder of the Life After School program, an initiative dedicated to helping young people in rural and regional Tasmania successfully transition from education to adulthood.

Alyssia saw a need in the community and created a program that delivers practical workshops on workplace readiness, financial literacy, and life skills, equipping participants with confidence and resilience. Alyssia works closely with schools, local organisations, and service providers to ensure young people have access to the knowledge and networks they need to thrive after they leave school and move into adulthood. She is committed to empower young people to strengthen communities and create pathways for meaningful opportunities across regional Australia.



Alyssia was also recently named 2026 TAS Young Australian of the Year and previously chosen as a 2025 ABC Trailblazer for her program, giving Alyssia the opportunity to present her ideas to policymakers in Canberra. Through her vision, drive, and dedication. Alyssia is equipping young people with the practical skills and confidence they need to not only navigate adulthood but truly thrive within it.



TWiA Rural Women's Development Award



Laura-Jude Johnson OAM - Founder of THEIRS (Talk, Hear and Help, Educate, Inform, Refer and Support), a youth-led mental health and suicide prevention organisation based on Tasmania's North-West Coast.

Drawing on her lived experience and deep commitment to community, Laura works to create safe, empowering spaces where conversations spark change and young people feel seen and supported. Through state-wide events, school programs, and collaborations, she leads initiatives that build resilience, emotional literacy, and practical skills, ensuring no young person feels alone.

Laura is one of the youngest ever to receive the Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to youth mental health, along with being named 2024 Haywire, trailblazer, finalist for young Tasmanian of the year and winner of the 2025 MAIB excellence in leadership award.

A big thank you to our amazing supporters!

- Westpac – Proud Platinum Sponsor
- Tasmanian Women in Agriculture – Sponsors of the Encouragement & Development Awards.

Your generous support helps us celebrate and empower women making a real difference in rural and regional communities.

Applications for the 2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award open on 9 September 2026.

To learn more, visit: <https://agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/rural-womens-award>

TASMANIA DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION HUB

The Tasmanian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (Tas Farm Innovation Hub) is one of eight Australian Government Future Drought Fund Hubs established to strengthen the resilience of Australian agriculture and regional communities. TWiA continues to be a valued supporting partner, with Belinda Hazell and Amanda Bond representing the organisation on the Hub's Industry Advisory Board and contributing strategic advice to guide the Hub's priorities and future direction.

As Tasmania continues to experience increasing climate variability, the Hub plays an important role in connecting farmers, researchers, industry, government, and regional communities to improve preparedness for drought and other climate challenges. Through collaboration, practical research and on farm extension, the Hub is helping primary producers adopt innovative practices that improve productivity while strengthening environmental, economic, and social resilience.

During 2025–26, the Hub continued to deliver an extensive portfolio of projects across Tasmania, focusing on practical solutions that can be readily adopted by farming businesses. Key initiatives have included expanding programs that improve soil health and water use efficiency, advancing digital decision support tools such as Farming Forecaster, and building farmer capability through demonstration sites, workshops, and peer learning networks. The Hub has also continued to support projects exploring natural capital opportunities, climate adaptation, biodiversity, biosecurity preparedness, and resilient farm business planning.



A defining strength of the Hub is its collaborative approach, bringing together more than 30 partner organisations to ensure projects are locally relevant, scientifically robust and driven by the needs of Tasmanian farmers. By connecting research with practical on farm adoption, the Hub is helping producers make informed decisions that build resilience for future generations while supporting productive, profitable, and sustainable agricultural businesses. TWiA is proud to continue contributing to this important work, helping strengthen leadership, innovation, and collaboration across Tasmania's agricultural sector.

Belinda Hazel

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture



TWIA PHOTO COMPETITION



Above: 1st Place – Georgia Brown, Tasmanian Berries

Thank you for your photos!

We extend our thanks to everyone who submitted photos for inclusion in our library of images depicting rural life for Tasmanian women.

We now have lots of images for our library and encourage you all to continue sharing any photos that depict a day in your life as a Tasmanian woman in agriculture.

Included here are our 3 winners. Congratulations to Georgie Brown, Anna Raff and Alice Lang.



Left: 2nd Place, Anna Raff, King Island

Above: 3rd Place, Alice Lang, 'Walking the next generation'

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture have a proud association with the following organisations:



Tasmanian
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Rural and Regional Enterprise*

