

TASMANIAN **WOMEN** IN AGRICULTURE



Bluegum

Summer 2025

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING
TASMANIAN RURAL WOMEN

Chair Report

by Sue Hinton



Hello, as we rapidly approach the end of 2025, another busy year for us all, I would like to extend my best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year in 2026.

Many thanks to the members of our hardworking executive and our support team for all that has been achieved this year. We are looking forward to a busy and fulfilling year with you all, our members, in 2026.

Our Meander Valley Gathering committee have been busy organising an exciting event, planned for us all in March 2026, and I am looking forward to meeting more of you there.

Over the past few months, we have been pleased to deliver a range of valuable activities, including supporting members to participate in a Farm Resilience Tasmania program, a Palawa Kipli Bush Tucker Tour, the Lifetime Ewe Program and livestock handling for kids. We are excited about delivering many more opportunities in the year ahead.

Despite the challenges of the season, I hope you all have a chance to spend some time with your loved ones over the Christmas period.

Cheers.

Sue Hinton



Palawa Kipli Bush Tour



On Friday November 7th TWiA members, and a few members of our Executive Committee, joined Palawa Kipli, the Aboriginal-owned company behind the Kipli Takara Bush Tucker Tour, for a guided walk across Piyura Kitina / Risdon Cove led by Palawa guides.

Along the way we sampled native bush foods in season and learned about the deep history of the land and how Palawa people continue to use and care for it today.

A highlight for one TWiA member, was trying a native plant that surprisingly tasted just like a Granny Smith apple. Nature is full of surprises!

We finished the tour with a spread including damper, game meat and cheeses that included some of the native ingredients we sampled along the way. We can confirm it was well received and absolutely delicious.

This experience is a must for anyone wanting to learn more about our incredible bush foods and cultural knowledge.

“Despite the rain doing its best to join in, we enjoyed a lovely experience filled with history, good company and incredible flavours”.



Marcus Oldham Leadership Program (MORLP)

by Caitlin Badcock

On Sunday the 31st of August, I arrived at Marcus Oldham feeling both nervous and excited, determined to make the most of the MORLP experience. I had been advised by past participants that “the more you put in, the more you get will get out,” and I kept that in mind throughout the week.

Over the five days, we heard from a range of outstanding speakers who not only shared ideas that resonated with me but also challenged me to rethink what leadership truly means.

Midweek, we attended a session with Allan Parker OAM on peak performance as a leader. He explained that to lead effectively, one must cultivate a state of no judgment, no opinions, and no “brain noise.” He also emphasised that we have the ability to rewire our brains, an idea I found both fascinating and empowering.



A recurring theme throughout the week was the importance of values. We were encouraged to explore what fundamentally matters to us, which I found both rewarding and thought-provoking. Narrowing down my top ten values required deep self-reflection and helped me gain a clearer understanding of my personal priorities.

Friday morning proved to be the most challenging yet fulfilling part of the course. During our action planning session, we put everything we had learned over the week into practice.

The activity required vulnerability, not only from myself, but from everyone in the group, as we shared real and at times confronting challenges from our own lives. What struck me most was how a group of strangers, who had only met days earlier, came together to offer genuine insight, empathy and support.

I feel incredibly privileged to have participated in this course. The lessons I have learned have been exceedingly impactful, and I am now challenging myself to apply them in my everyday life, whether that means slowing down when public speaking or taking the time to 'seek first to understand so you can be understood', which was a fundamental takeaway from the week. This experience is one I will never forget, and I am immensely grateful to TWIA for the opportunity to be part of such an inspiring program.



Marcus Oldham Leadership Program (MORLP) Scholarships 2026

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program (MORLP) is an intensive five-day workshop aimed at developing personal and leadership skills in anyone associated with rural industry and communities. It is attended by a wide variety of self-funded and rural industry-sponsored representatives from across the country.

The program has no connection or affiliation with TWIA, but as it fits very well with TWIA's own aims and purpose, it was deemed a highly appropriate way to assist Tasmanian rural women with personal development, business along with professional growth, leadership and representative skills. TWIA has accessed and provided sponsorship to enable Tasmanian women to attend the course since 1995. Toyota was the initial sponsor for many years, followed by Extractas Bioscience in recent years, formerly Tasmanian Alkaloids.

The number of recipients each year is dependent on TWIA funding and sponsorship. The MORLP scholarship covers all course fees, meals, accommodation at MORLP and up to \$600 of travel costs.

Past recipients of the program have been encouraged to continue their relationships with their sponsors and Marcus Oldham College. When available they are also encouraged to contribute to TWIA in a variety of formats when required.



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Tasmanian Women in Agriculture are once again offering scholarship places to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program (MORLP). The 2026 MORLP is scheduled to run in May at the Geelong based Marcus Oldham College.

Our TWiA scholarship attendees will be fully immersed in the experience – harnessing their leadership skills, collaborating with like-minded passionate individuals and delving deep into their personal values and what drives them as an individual in the agricultural sector.

TWiA have routinely sponsored the attendance of Tasmanian women in the past and continue to do so due to the opportunities and benefits this course can provide to the attendees. These benefits can then be filtered into the community connections the attendees have, helping to boost the skills in the Tasmanian Agriculture industry.

Graduates of the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program will emerge with:

- Enhanced leadership skills and increased confidence.
- A broader understanding of the agricultural sector and its challenges.
- Stronger networks and connections within the industry.
- A commitment to making a positive impact in their communities.

No matter your age or skill set; if you are a Tasmanian woman with a connection to the agricultural sector that wants to build your network and increase your leadership skill set you are encouraged to apply!

Applications are open now and close on February 20 2026! Please note preference will be given to current TWiA members.

For more information and to download the application form visit:
www.taswomeninag.org/morlp

Please contact Caitlin Johnston at scholarships@taswomeninag.org if you have any questions.

Positions Vacant



Ever thought about joining the TWiA Executive Committee?

The start of a new year is the perfect time to step forward and join, or become more involved with, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

We are inviting expressions of interest for General Executive Committee Members and a Vice Chair to help guide the future of TWiA. This is your chance to have a real say in the future of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and the direction of programs, events and advocacy that support women across our state.

Being on the Executive Committee is a great way to build leadership skills, expand your network, and give back to a community that supports women in ag. You will be part of a welcoming, passionate group of women who share ideas, solve problems and celebrate wins together. It is rewarding, confidence-building and looks great on your CV too.

What matters most as a General Executive Committee Member is your willingness to contribute, share your perspective and work as part of a supportive team. The Vice Chair role offers an opportunity to take on a little more leadership, supporting the Chair, providing continuity and helping keep things moving forward between meetings.

If you have been thinking about getting more involved, now is the perfect time to put your hand up

Your application:

Interested people, who believe they can make a meaningful contribution to this important not for profit organisation, are asked to request an application form via email from Sue Hinton, the current Chair. chair@taswomeninag.org or download an application form at www.taswomeninag.org/positions-vacant.

Resilient Farming Tasmania (RFT) Workshop Series

by Sue Hinton

TWiA supported members to attend a series of RFT workshops during July and August this year. Participants also had the opportunity to develop a plan for their farm. The workshops were delivered by RMCC and Optimum Standards.

Topics included:

- Digital Literacy and Cyber Security
- Produce Marketing and the Art of Negotiation
- Carbon Farming Without the Jargon
- Your Farm Biosecurity
- Decision Making and Drought Resilience Strategies and Responses
- Your RFT Plan

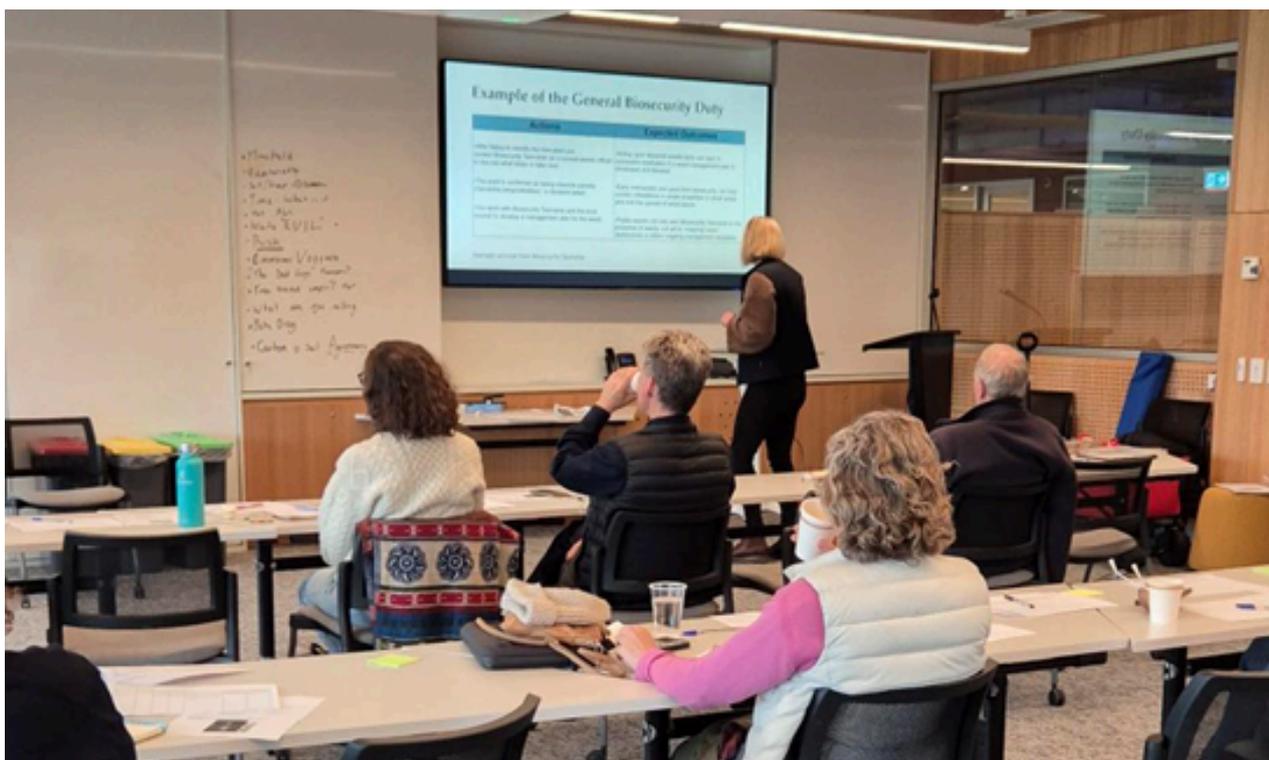


The discussions between the participants and presenters were great. So much valuable information was shared.

Feedback on what did you gain from the workshops mentioned “I learnt about AI and cyber security”. Other comments on what participants gained included:

- To continue on the carbon journey and to establish what our soil carbon baseline is
- Understanding of carbon related issues
- How to expand and implement Farm Biosecurity Plan
- Very interesting speakers and presented in a simple format to understand
- Understanding impact of different variables on the decision making process for farm businesses
- A greater understanding of what levers are options and how to better make the right decisions
- Use Decision making matrix when making decisions on farm

The RTF workshops were a very informative and successful series that provided a solid cross section of information to the participants.





This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



FARMING SMARTER FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Tools. Events. Insights. All in one place - just for Tasmanian farmers.

Tasmanian farmers are no strangers to change - but the climate challenges we face today demand new thinking, new tools, and strong support.

*That's where the **TAS Farm Innovation Hub** comes in.*

We connect you with practical, research-backed solutions to build resilience on your farm - now and into the future.

From water management to soil health, from decision-making tools to climate-smart workshops, we're here to help you adapt and thrive.

Whether you're looking for the latest events near you, hands-on resources, or opportunities to collaborate with experts and fellow farmers - we've got it all in one place.



Explore events, access practical tools, and stay ahead of the challenges.

**BECAUSE THE FUTURE OF FARMING
STARTS WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT - TODAY.**

Meander Valley TWiA Members Share the Love with 1000 Hearts

by Anne Cresswell

Meander Valley women in Ag were very fortunate to have Sarah DeJonge visit to explain her 1000 Hearts project at our meeting in October.



Our group will be making 1000 Hearts to share with our community.

We all had some lovely conversations about the message we wish to send out with our hearts. This message centred around planting seeds of kindness and coming together to nurture them to thrive.

There was much laughter, some excellent attempts making the hearts, and we appreciated Sarah's messages of kindness, hope, joy and letting people know they are not alone, which these HEARTS so beautifully represent.

Thankyou Sarah.



Gathering 2026

Secure Your Tickets Now!



2026 Gathering
Thursday 19 March 2026

Wesley Dale
1901 Mole Creek Road
Mole Creek 7304

Two exciting events!

Ladies Day at Wesley Dale: 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Evening Sips & Nibbles: 6:00 PM – LATE

Meander Valley Tasmanian Women in Agriculture Group are thrilled to extend an invitation to attend the 2026 Gathering – Ladies' Day at Wesley Dale, followed by a sips and nibbles celebration.

Join us at the 17th biennial event to enjoy:

- Interactive exhibits
- Fashion show
- Keynote speakers
- Industry displays
- Sips and nibbles
- Networking opportunities

Secure your tickets now: taswomeninag.org/events

Ticketing closes 1st March 2026. Early Bird discount available for TWiA members until 1st February 2026. Email admin@taswomeninag.org for details.



Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and the Meander Valley TWiA Group would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our Gathering 2026 sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor please email Deb Morice (Meander Valley TWiA Chair): gathering@taswomeninag.org or call 0408 990 927.

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partner of Tasmanian
Women in Agriculture
(TWiA)**



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For every Tasmanian Women in Agriculture member that takes up insurance with WFI we get a referral fee which we put towards events, sponsorships, and training for our members.