

E-GUMNUT

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

'EMBRACING EQUITY' 2023

The TWiA were recently a proud sponsor of the 'Embrace Equity' evening, held at the "Devonport City Strikers" Soccer Club at the beginning of March.

There were displays of women's small businesses and incredible guests who spoke on the topics of human trafficking and embracing equity in communities.

The below extract is from Dianne Curran, event coordinator.

"The success of 'Celebrate Equity' was due to the dynamic speakers, diversity of attendees, generosity of individuals, a satisfying supper from 'Zest' purchased through the supportive donation of \$200 from Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and also the "Devonport Strikers Club" for waiving their venue hire fee.

The evening was one of listening to four powerful women speak of topics close to their hearts - trafficking, equity and personal stories thus raising an awareness and encouraging those present to challenge personal views and potentially change lives.

Roxan Fabiano - Executive Officer for 'HerSpace', based in Melbourne practised as a lawyer for national and international clients in the public and private sectors before moving into executive leadership of Non-Profit Organisations. Roxan is passionate about helping women survivors of exploitation find a healing pathway to a life of purpose and flourishing. Ali Dugan - works for Red Cross, Hobart with the 'Support for Trafficked People Program' which provides health and welfare support to individuals identified as victims of human trafficking, slavery and those subjected to forced marriage. Catherine Loopy - author of 'Beyond the Shadows' - shared her brokenness, depression, devastation and the miracle of reclaiming her sanity and hard-won wisdom in her life journey from the Gambia, Sth Africa to Australia. Catherine was one of three winners of the 2017 'African Australian Women in Leadership' Awards and was nominated for a Role Model Award in the Tasmanian African community in 2019.

Sharon Corvinus-Jones, Executive Officer of CORES Kentish Council Community Response to Eliminating Suicide and the Development and Training Program. Sharon has won 3 awards for her work with LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and social inclusion strategies. Sharon shared some of her experiences struggling with sexuality and gender identity issues, while growing up in outback Queensland, and living as a young adult in rural Tasmania.

Approximately 60 women and men of varied backgrounds attended, enjoyed informative, accurate and inspiring talks. The opportunity through displays was taken to support and listen to women who have created small businesses. The evening culminated with celebration by dance."



Left to right: Dianne Curran, Sharon Corvinus-Jones, Neeti Verma, Roxan Fabiano, Catherine Loopy and Ali Dugan



Hannah de Bomford representing TWiA at the event

ABC Rural Article - By Laurissa Smith 22/05/2023

Tasmanian farming couple turn their Cormo sheep's fleece into family keepsakes at Launceston mill

When it comes to giving gifts, what's the most you've spent? Does \$16,000 sound a bit extravagant? That's what Tasmanian farmers Mandy and Carl Cooper have forked out to get their wool made into blankets for family and friends.

The semi-retired pharmacists run a small farm at Rowella, in the Tamar Valley, with farming now their main occupation.

Mandy reckons a lot of great ideas were born out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and their keepsake project was one of them.

Their fleece is from a flock of cormo sheep, raised on their property alongside cattle.

Cormos are a breed developed in Tasmania's Central Highlands, a cross between the superfine saxon merino and a corriedale.

The Coopers kept two bales of wool from market, and took it across Bass Strait to Victoria to get it cleaned, combed and straightened.

They were left with 250 kilograms of soft ropes of fibre, known as tops.

The pair then approached Waverley Woollen Mills in Launceston to turn the fibre into blankets.

It's Australia's last remaining fully operational mill and turns 150 next year.

Waverley chief executive Dave Giles-Kaye said it was a unique project.

"We've learnt a lot in the process," he said.

"We ended up taking their fibre, spinning it into a beautiful boucle yarn.

"We dyed it, weaved it, finished it and turned it into these beautiful blankets."

Mr Giles-Kaye said the business wanted to reconnect with local woolgrowers as part of its multi-million dollar facelift.

"Tasmanian wool has been produced into traceable textiles before," he said.

"But it always has to go overseas to get spun or woven.

"We can do all of that in Tassie and it's a unique opportunity to work with the farmers."

It's not a cheap exercise to get wool processed in Australia, but the Coopers were willing to overlook that to get the project off the ground.

"Our wool at the time was worth \$9.60 a kilogram," Ms Cooper said.

"All of the processing cost us nearly \$16,000.

"So it was a cost of \$64 a kilo for us."

But they didn't take on the project to make money.

"We did it to give our kids, grandkids and people close to us something that came from these cormo sheep, which was uniquely Tasmanian and uniquely Australian," she said.



Mandy and Carl Cooper with some of the blankets made from their cormo wool. (ABC Rural: Laurissa Smith)



Cormo sheep were developed in Tasmania in the early 1960s. (Supplied: Carl Cooper)

Article and photograph credit goes in full to Laurissa Smith, of ABC News. Link to the original document is <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-22/tasmania-sheep-farmers-turn-fleece-into-blankets-local-mill/102350786>.

FRIENDS OF RAW

TWiA in partnership with Rural Alive and Well Tasmania are running two Friends of Raw training sessions - one in the Meander Valley Region and the other in Southern Tasmania.

Mental health and suicide is a public issue that requires a combined effort from everyone.

Being part of the Friends of RAW network helps members be eyes and ears for RAW, to help increase capacity to support a greater amount of people through acting a referral conduit.

The programs will ensure that members are equipped to deal with situations they may find themselves in.

Meander Valley Details

Please join us from 10:30am to 12:30pm followed by lunch Tuesday 11th July 2023 - Parkham Hall hosted by the Meander Valley TWiA group.

RSVP 7th July @ [Rural Alive & Well Tasmania - Friends of RAW](mailto:rawtas.com.au)
(rawtas.com.au)

or taswomening@outlook.com or phone mobile 0408 990 927 and leave a message.

Southern Tasmania Details

Location: Beaupre - 34 Gourlays Road, Lymington

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Date: 7th July 2023

Maximum persons to attend: 15

There is no cost with morning tea and a light lunch provided.

RSVP before Monday, 3rd July, to chris.bishopepi@gmail.com





TIME TO HIT THE ROAD WITH CONFIDENCE

Do you want to feel more confident and safe when driving on rural roads?

You will have opportunity to learn the main causes of road crashes and how to apply defensive driving strategies to reduce the risks associated with operating a vehicle on public roads.

Dates:

Numbers limited to 15 people per date

Wednesday 21st June

Symmons Plains (Launceston)

Thursday 27th July

Burnie Airport (Wynyard)

Tuesday 22nd August

Baskerville Raceway (Hobart)

Interested in driving safer today?

Contact: treasurer@taswomeninag.org

Price:

Lunch included

TWiA Members:

\$195 per person

Non-Members:

\$396 per person

What's included

Tire changes, vehicle inspections, collision avoidance, Advanced Driving Techniques, etc....

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA UPDATE

Extract from Biosecurity Tasmania Facebook page - 3rd May 2023

A second small hive beetle has been detected in East Devonport. This detection does not indicate that small hive beetle is established in Tasmania.

Both specimens were found as part of Biosecurity Tasmania's extensive monitoring program. Since the initial detection in early March, Biosecurity Tasmania has worked alongside beekeepers, industry and the community to undertake thousands of beehive and trap inspections.

The current 10km Bee Movement Restriction Area will remain in place until further notice: Effective immediately, Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) asks all beekeepers within the 15km Bee Movement Restriction Area around Devonport, not to open their hives until notified. (SEE MAP BELOW).

BT is investigating the detection of a single small hive beetle (SHB) in a guard hive located in the Devonport area and as a precautionary measure has enacted emergency management protocol. BT is currently conducting surveillance and trapping to determine if SHB is present elsewhere in the Restriction Area.

Opening a hive increases the potential risk of spreading SHB. SHB can also be spread on and in a range of beekeeping equipment and bee products.

If you believe you must open a hive for any reason, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 to arrange a time for a Biosecurity Officer to be present when the hive is opened.

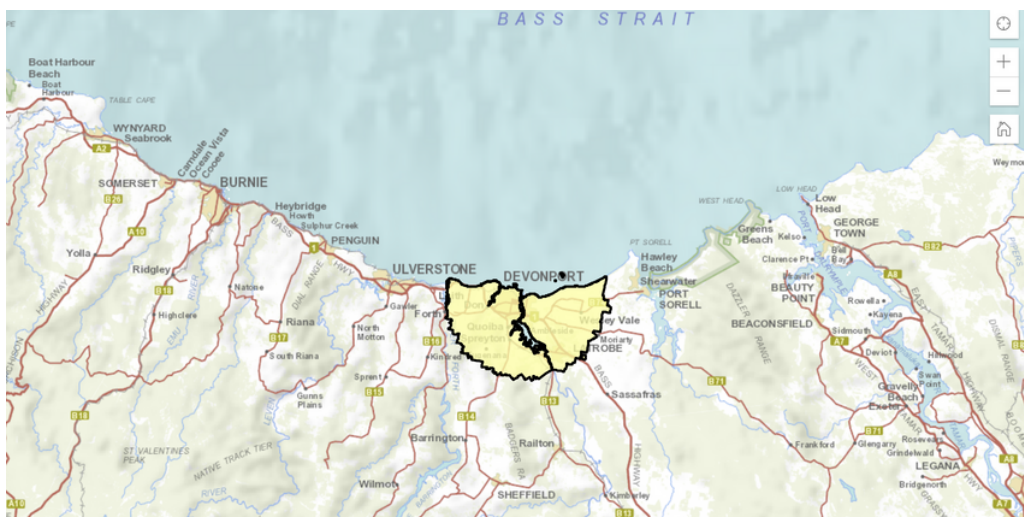
For more information visit:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/bees/small-hive-beetle>

While Biosecurity Tasmania will continue investigations, checking beehives and setting traps, with this detection, the response will now focus more on wild and unregistered beehives. Registration is one of our most powerful tools to protect against pests and diseases that threaten our bee population.

It is illegal to own beehives and be unregistered in Tasmania – fines do apply. However, a permanent amnesty applies for anyone registering beehives – you will not be fined for registering your hives. Registration is free, for more information or to register visit www.nre.tas.gov.au/beekeeper-registration.

If you know of wild or unregistered hives, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777. For more information on small hive beetle, please visit www.nre.tas.gov.au/SHB



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

People across the country and the Commonwealth celebrated the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla over a weekend of special events on 6 - 8th May 2023.

Please enjoy the below 'flashbacks' to the year 2012.

"30 women involved with the TWiA were part of 60 Tasmanian Rural Women who were invited to a luncheon at Richmond on Thursday 8th November 2012 to meet "HRH Duchess of Cornwall" (now Queen Camilla).

These women were very surprised to receive an invitation and most of us did not know who had been invited. A wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone, with the Duchess greeting each person attending."



Ruth Paterson



Maureen Holland , Gabbi Bresnehan
& Ann Taylor.



Annette Reed, TWIA President



Maureen Holland, Annette Reed, Rosie McKinnon,
Gina Butler , Ann Taylor, Jo Nichols,
Cheryl McCartie, & Sue Martin.

CALL OUT FOR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

We are seeking expressions of interest to join the TWiA Executive Committee. We are looking for women passionate about supporting TWiA's future growth and keen to become more involved in Tasmania's Agriculture sector - the growth of TWiA is dependent on the time and dedication of volunteers. This is a great opportunity to network and develop new skills within a great team.

For more information, please contact taswomeninag@outlook.com.au.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Have you visited our new look website yet? The TWiA website has had a serious facelift, in both appearance and ease of use. Pop on over to www.taswomeninag.org to stay up to date with events, revisit past publications, purchase TWiA merchandise and check in on your membership - you may even find you are due for a renewal!

www.taswomeninag.org

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