

# E-GUMNUT

## TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

### A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE - 2020 GATHERING



*In preparation for the 2024 TWiA gathering, let's take a trip down memory lane to the Women on Farms Gathering in the year 2000.*

The millennium year marked the fourth Gathering, at Poatina. Two regional groups came together to organize it, from Quamby and the Meander Valley, adopting the theme of TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More. Clemencia Barnes ran a workshop on balancing the demands of family and farm life. 'Some of our members still quote her,' said Joan Field many years later.

Workshops covered farming as a couple, media skills, GST, making a will, welding, herb growing, internet banking, coping with cancer, off-farm investments, suicide prevention, farm safety audits, mechanical repairs, emu husbandry and crop diseases.

'Farming is often a lonely, isolated lifestyle in which outside contact is a rare commodity', said one organizer. Seeing women brought out of their shell was often a moving and emotional experience.

### 2023-2024 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

TWiA wants to build a collection of photographs of real Tassie Women which tell the story of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture. We want photos from you which depict daily Tasmanian rural life and tells stories of Women in the agriculture sector.

We are hoping you will be willing to help TWiA collect a library of photos which tell your stories. We want to see Tasmanian Agriculturists living their life - show us what our members do best! There will be 3 Cash prizes awarded at the close of the competition in early 2024.

Please reach out for a consent form and send all high-resolution entries to [scholarships@taswomeninag.org](mailto:scholarships@taswomeninag.org).



2022-23 second prize winner, Lisa Britzman

## EXECUTIVE SPOTLIGHT - CHRIS BISHOP

I stood in the hall with a bundle of towels with hardly enough energy to put them away. I still have a Zoom call with twelve countries later that evening; a report to write; a bag to pack for travel; written instructions to give to my partner as we cross paths at the airport on how to care for an unwell goat in my absence; and a daughter needing support as she manages her mid-year exams. The house is messy, and my partner's children are visiting next week but I'll have the weekend to clean the cottage, cook and prepare.

Buzzing in my head were timeframes around when the goats need to be joined and vaccinated, orchard trees and vegetable seedlings requiring planting. Who will take this on in the future? Where would I fit study to learn how to better manage our 40-acre farm, goat study and accommodation business in Southern Tasmania? Are my property and community prepared for more intensive storms? Will my chronic pain diminish over time, and will this affect my long-term health? A swarm of mental energy, thoughts, and questions.

I'm one of many struggling with work-life balance, long farm hours with physical labour, and a demanding off-farm job. Sometimes I feel isolated, not a real farmer, an underprepared, undereducated farming clutz. I hear the frustration of women in conversations about the gender stereotypes and biases they face while strategically managing their businesses, farm activities and administration while juggling kids and unwell parents.

I am grateful to my TWiA network for their mentoring and friendship, the ability to access information and short courses to improve my practice, the efforts and programs which promote women's leadership and greater access to financial support, education and training.

To the incredible women in agriculture, you are the heart and soul of our farming communities. Your dedication, resilience, and passion inspire us all. Your hard work feeds nations and cultivates change. Keep breaking barriers, nurturing growth, and shining brightly. You are essential, and your contributions are valued and celebrated.



*Chris with her lovely Clive and Beau.*

## 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 ([rawtas.com.au](http://rawtas.com.au)) or [taswomening@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:chris.bishopepi@gmail.com)



## SAVE THE DATE - 2023 AGM

The 2023 TWiA Annual General Meeting is set to be held in Longford on the 1st of September, 10am start. All details are to be confirmed closer to the date, but for now put it in your calendar!





# 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 12<sup>th</sup> July**

~~Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June~~

Symmons Plains (Launceston)

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Burnie Airport (Wynyard)

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Baskerville Raceway (Hobart)

Interested in driving safer today?

Contact: [treasurer@taswomeninag.org](mailto: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....