

# TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



## Bluegum

April 2026

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING  
TASMANIAN RURAL WOMEN

## Chair Report by Sue Hinton



**Welcome to this edition of the Bluegum.** Amidst the challenges and uncertainty, we face with global events and the variable climates impacting agriculture, we have much to celebrate as women in agriculture over recent weeks.

The 2026 Gathering, hosted by the fabulous Meander Valley group, was a wonderful Ladies Day at Wesley Dale. Thanks to the organising committee for all your hard work. It was a fantastic event. Also, thanks to all the wonderful sponsors, who made it possible for such a great day to go ahead, and lastly but not least to all of you who came along and participated in the day and evening.

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture has always been more than an organisation. It is a network of relationships, a place where women find connection, confidence, and the courage to grow. The vision is simple but powerful, to provide a vibrant, connected, and resilient community where Tasmanian rural women are empowered, included, and able to access the resources needed to thrive. The Ladies Day Gathering embodied this so well.

Another exciting recent event was the announcement of the 2026 Tasmanian Agrifutures Rural Woman of the Year. This year's Tasmanian winner is Amy Vickers, for her program, Well Beyond Service. The program supports women who have served in Defence, emergency services, and volunteer emergency roles. Amy's 26-year Defence service role has helped shape her passion for helping others, through this fantastic program.

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture continue to support the Agrifutures Rural Women of the Year by sponsoring the second and third placed finalists, via the TWiA Encouragement Award and the TWiA Rural Women's Development Award. These were awarded to Alyssia Kennedy for her Life After School program, and to Laura-Jude Johnson OAM as the Founder of THEIRS.

TWiA's continued support and involvement in the Agrifutures Rural Womens Award, allows us to be part of something bigger, something resilient, inspiring, generous, and full of possibility.

*Sue Hinton*

# Fuel Supply

By Sue Hinton



## **Tasmanian Liquid Fuel Supply Industry Engagement Group**

TWiA are participating in regular meetings of this group. The group receives updates on the current situation. We discuss the key sector impacts and consequences of the changing situation. Information is being collected on how the uncertainty is driving behavioural changes, such as, farmers delaying or cancelling planting. The farming and business community is looking for certainty with the need for clear signals on fuel availability, pricing, and how the Government is responding.

NRE is currently undertaking some modelling to get a better handle on the baseline levels of fuel and fertiliser used across the agriculture and fisheries industries in Tasmania. This helps inform decision making.

The contributions from the group discussion will be used for forward planning consequence management.

# Marcus Oldham Leadership Reunion

## Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program Reunion

You're warmly invited to join us for a special reunion of the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program community.

**Date:** Thursday, 21st May

**Time:** 4:00pm – 7:00pm

**Location:** Camp Clayton Turners Beach

**Hosted by:** Tasmania Women in Agriculture  
Dinner and presentations

Come along for an evening of connection, reflection, and inspiration as we bring together past participants and celebrate the impact of the program. The event will include dinner and presentations, offering a chance to reconnect, share experiences, and hear from fellow leaders in agriculture.

We look forward to seeing you there and continuing to strengthen our rural leadership network.

Please RSVP to Caitlin Johnston on 0497 268 966 by the 3rd of May.



**MARCUS  
OLDHAM**  
**We mean business.**



# TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE Gathering 2026

## TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



## Gathering Chair Report by Deb Morice



**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.

Cheers.

*Deb Morice*



Photo of the 2026 Gathering Tasmanian Women in Agriculture Meander Valley Group.

# Gathering 2026 Sponsors



Tasmanian Women in Agriculture say a BIG thank you to all of our sponsors for Gathering 2026. Without you, these events simply could not happen. The commitment of local businesses to connection and community is truly heartwarming.

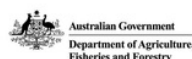
## Major Sponsors



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



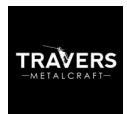
# Gathering 2026 Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



## Supporters



# Lift off: Launch Pad Program

by Erin Paine

(Advanced Skills Teacher, Deloraine High School)



This year, Deloraine High School was proud to offer our Year 9 and 10 students the opportunity to participate in an alternative learning program, Launch Pad. Run by Mr Ian Mackenzie and Mr Mitch Sherman, Launch Pad is a project-based learning program designed to develop work-ready, transferable skills within STEM industries. Throughout the program, students collaborate on a range of authentic, hands-on projects. These include running a stall at Agfest, building an electric vehicle, competing in Subs in Schools, and engaging in the design process to develop products ready for market.

At Deloraine High School, we place great value on building strong connections with our local community. We were therefore delighted when Women in Ag invited us to be part of their Ladies' Day 2026 at Wesley Dale.

Our female students involved in the Launch Pad program attended the event, where they worked together to operate the 'Del-licious' coffee van; a student-led project that saw the complete transformation of a caravan into a fully functioning coffee business. In addition to running the coffee van, students also assisted with serving morning tea and lunch and even had some fun dressing up as cows.

Not only did students gain valuable hands-on experience, but they were also fortunate to engage with the broader event. The generosity of the organisers allowed both students and staff to take part in the day's activities, making it an enriching and memorable experience.

For our young female students, the event was both inspiring and empowering. It provided a valuable opportunity to see strong, successful women leading within the agricultural industry and to envision their own future pathways.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making the day such a success. We look forward to being involved again in the future.



Photos show Deloraine High School students participating in the Launch Pad program at Gathering 2026. Photos supplied by Deloraine High School.

# Gathering 2026



Ashgrove: Dr Susan Bennett, Connie Bennett (Founder) & Anne Bennett

Lely: Alan Sheree Sean



Deb Morice on ABC with xxx



Botanical Resources Australia:  
Back row: Ashtyn Willey Samantha Baldock  
Rosie Rayner  
Front row: Anna Rayner, Robyn Bergerson,  
Jordan Burr, Georgina Ranson &  
Frances Chamley





Simplot: Jo Tubb & Caitlin Johnson



Midland Tractors: Sarah Casey

## **Ever thought about joining the TWiA Executive Committee?**

It's 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, secretarial support 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.

### **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](mailto:chair@taswomeninag.org) or download an application form at [www.taswomeninag.org/positions-vacant](http://www.taswomeninag.org/positions-vacant).

# Photo competition



TWIA wants to build a collection of photographs 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.

There will be 3 cash prizes awarded.

- First Prize:** \$250.00
- Second Prize:** \$150.00
- Third Prize:** \$100.00

Your entries should be high-resolution images. They are required to be at least 300 pixels per inch (or 300 dpi), which makes them good for printing.

Email your entries before 30th May 2026 to:  
[taswomeninag@outlook.com](mailto:taswomeninag@outlook.com)

# TWiA merchandise for sale

Available online NOW

Limited number available, so get in quick!



Caps \$25 (inclusive of GST + postage)



Cooler Bags \$40  
(inclusive of GST + postage).

Order now at the [Tasmanian Women in Ag online shop](#)

# Join us: become a member of TWiA

By Sue Hinton



Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) formed in 1994. We are a voluntary organisation that is apolitical, independent and very grass roots. We aim to support and empower women in agriculture to realise their full potential.

Members can be from any profession, and new faces are always welcome. If you are thinking about joining us now might be the time to take that step and sign up. It's easy.

Jump onto our website [Membership Plans | Tasmanian Women in Agriculture](#) and follow the steps.

We have a range of membership types for different needs, including the recently added Organisational membership to allow organisations and business that support our mission to join us.

We run a number of events and activities during the year including workshops and training, networking events and field days and farm tours. TWiA actively advocates for policies and practices that benefit women in agriculture. We work closely with industry stakeholders and government bodies to address issues affecting our members and the broader agricultural community.

We look forward to seeing you become members of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

# PayDay Super is coming

By Amanda Bond



From 1 July 2026, the way employers meet their superannuation guarantee obligations will change fundamentally.

The new system requires employers to make the, which requires superannuation contributions to be paid in line with employees' pay cycles. For most this will not change how much super is paid, but it will materially change when it must be paid and how payroll and compliance processes operate.

Under the payday super regime, employers will be required to pay superannuation guarantee contributions at the same time as salary and wages are paid be it weekly or fortnightly. The current quarterly payment buffer will no longer exist. It is also important to note that contributions must reach the employee's fund within seven calendar days of payday. That's a big shift from the 28 days employers currently have to send money to super funds with quarterly payments.

The super calculation will not be based on ordinary time earnings (OTE) as in the past, but what are called qualifying earnings. This will not always result in the same amount payable but mostly will. Qualifying earnings include:

- Ordinary time earnings (OTE), i.e. payments for ordinary hours of work, including certain types of paid leave, allowances, bonuses and lump sum payments. There are no changes to what payments are considered OTE under Payday Super.
- All commissions paid to an employee.
- Salary sacrifice amounts that would qualify as qualifying earnings had they not been sacrificed to superannuation.

- Earnings paid to workers who fall under the expanded definition of employee, including payments to independent contractors paid mainly for their labour.

For some time now a failure to pay super has been a breach of workplace law. This means unpaid or late superannuation may constitute a breach of the National Employment Standards, a breach of the award, and from 1 July 2026, a breach of the payday super regime.

Most modern payroll systems (such as Xero, MYOB and Reckon) are expected to support Payday Super before it commences. If you are using r older software, you will likely need to upgrade.

Because super will no longer be paid quarterly, you will also need to plan your cash flow carefully. Sufficient funds must be available to cover super at the same time wages are processed.

When engaging new employees, make sure you obtain their superannuation fund details as early as possible. Their first pay will also require super to be paid immediately.

Primary Employers Tasmania can assist agricultural businesses with their human resource management and workplace relations matters. Members receive free telephone advice, a fortnightly newsletter and on farm assistance when required.

If you have any questions about the above or the services Primary Employers Tasmania can offer contact Andrew Cameron on 0407 200 909 or email [andrew@primaryemployers.com.au](mailto:andrew@primaryemployers.com.au)



## Start, Grow, or Reconnect Your Group

# EMERGE

Supporting Farmer Led Groups

Across Tasmania, farmer groups start with an idea: A few people who care about their land, their businesses and their community - getting together to learn, connect and support each other.

### **Don't know where to start?**

If you're part of a group that's **beginning to form**, thinking about **reactivating a group** that's gone quiet, or curious about **becoming more organised** or **how to access funding**, this Program can help.

The Emerge Program supports **farmer-led groups** to come together, helping you **define what you want to achieve, strengthen how you operate, and grow over time.**

Farmer groups play an important role in supporting peer learning, providing connection and tackling shared challenges. With the right structure and support, your group can grow, have meaningful impact, and make the most of opportunities ahead.

### **It all starts with a conversation**

Call now to learn more and take the first step toward unlocking new possibilities for your group in 2026.



### **Free program offers:**

- ✓ **Coaching**  
Tailored to your groups' needs and aspirations.
- ✓ **Resources**  
Handbook to guide your group and templates for Constitution options, meeting documentation and reports.
- ✓ **Events**  
Learn from experts and peers online and in person.

### **Places are limited**

For more information contact Cassie on **0428 805 761** or **[cassiet@rmcg.com.au](mailto:cassiet@rmcg.com.au)** or fill out the rego form for us to call you:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/emergetas1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/emergetas1)



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