

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



Bluegum

September 2022

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING
TASMANIAN RURAL WOMEN



A message from Chair

Rebekah Frankcombe



I'm Rebekah Frankcombe, the outgoing Chair for 2021/2022 Tasmanian Women in Agriculture. It has been an extremely humbling journey to be the Chair for the past twelve (12) months and involved on the executive since receiving a MORLP scholarship in 2019.

We have been involved in many events in the past twelve months:

This year has seen us send three (3) scholarship recipients in May and another two (2) participants in August 2022 to Geelong to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program.

Together with other organisations, Seedlab Tasmania, Sprout Tasmania, Agrifutures Australia, to name just a couple, we have supported and funded various programs and have also given donations to members who have applied to us for support with personal endeavours. We consider this an investment in our membership cohort, the economy and in women in our industry.

King Island had a daytrip organised and facilitated by Anita Poulsen in November. This included a visit to the small species abattoirs, new mine site for the island, lunch and then a brewery tour of King Island Brewhouse and tasting of King Island cheese to finish the day. Dinner that evening was held at the golf club with a presentation from Mary O'Brien "Are you bogged mate" organised by Tara Clarke, Foundations to Flourish, King Island.

The unveiling of the first TWiA bench seat in Scottsdale to celebrate TWiA's role in the community.

A networking lunch at the Silo's with the Hon. Jo Palmer MP as guest speaker.

Farm tours through the Tamar and Meander areas organised by the Meander TWiA group and West Tamar TWiA group. Belinda Hazell hosted Safe Farming Tasmania for several Paddock Talks online.

Deb Morice and Sigrid Nelson have been working extremely hard behind the scenes for the tour in the North East of the state in Scottsdale for the opening of the Art Installation. This event will be held over the weekend of the 21st October.

I'm extremely humbled to have been involved in the organisation over the past 4 years. I would like to extend sincere and extreme thanks to the current executive of 2021.

I know that I have been fully supported by our executive board, by our past executive and those that have left a legacy before us. Together we are acknowledging that women in agriculture are contributing to the viability and sustainability of our industry both in our state and nationally.

I look forward to seeing the vision of the new executive, forging new and existing connections and support within our state, as we look forward to continuing our projects from 2022 and new initiatives forming in 2023.

Thank you



Meander Valley Group
have enjoyed a number of events this year. Here are a few highlights ...



Hillwood Berries, 31st March 2022

Thank you to the Dornauf family from Hillwood Berries for the wonderful farm tour, and to Karen Dornauf, Melissa, Andrea, Jason, Brent, Big O, Aisea, Fina and Elvira for giving your time to Meander Valley Women in Agriculture.

Westbury Hotel, 28th April 2022

Guest Speaker: Pat Hodgetts, the local vet with her own practice and is also involved in endurance riding as the vet for state.



Josh & Patreena West's Farm: Westbae Pastoral, 27th May 2022

Patreena showed us around the farm which included their laying Hyline hens, Copworth sheep and Hereford cattle. They are part of the Sprout group and spoke about their involvement with Sprout and the great benefit that has been to them. Jo from RAW then joined us for a lovely networking lunch at Blacksmith Gallery Café. A most enjoyable day was had by all.





The Meander Valley TWIA Christmas in Winter Dinner, Mole Creek Hotel 25th June, 2022

What a great success the evening was with nineteen members and their partners attending to enjoy a lovely Christmas menu.



Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program

**Ashley Downie, Rachel Gill &
Lesley Pyecroft**

The opportunity to travel and meet like-minded people within the agricultural industry is a privilege which I have been fortunate enough to have been given by the TWiA. Attending MORLP has provided me with life-long skills that I will take forward in life to not only better myself, but better the working environment of my peers.

The program provided a unique learning experience that was open-minded and welcoming; free from speculation, judgement or bias. I found myself thriving in this supportive environment and reflecting on aspects of myself and my life that I had never before given the time of day.

The program not only gives you the tools to be an effective leader in a practical sense, but it makes you reflect on how these practical skills are shaped by your personal values and emotional intelligence. I cannot thank TWiA enough for providing me with this opportunity. It was an experience I will never forget. I cannot recommend this program enough!

Ashley Downie



Left to Right:
**Lesley Pyecroft,
Ashley Downie
& Rachel Gill**

I attended the MORLP in May for a week long intensive program that forced me to dig deep into my behaviours and how they impact on others. I found the session on the 'Should Manual' like an "ah huh" moment for me. This particular session focussed on why we get the reaction or response from others that we do and how our behaviour is directly linked their reaction or response. If we ask someone to do something in a 'parent' way then we should expect a 'child' response, however if we ask someone to do something in an 'adult' way then we can expect an 'adult' response.

Through attending MORLP I have learnt that people generally aren't being difficult for the sake of it and that it is often due to the way that I have approached them or the situation. The program was great source of reflection for me and I am extremely pleased to have been afforded this opportunity by Tas Women in Ag. If anyone is looking for an opportunity for personal development and self-growth, I would highly recommend attending MORLP and believe that you will gain lifelong skills.

Rachel Gill

In May of this year, I was able finally to attend Marcus Oldham for the Rural Leadership course. I was very fortunate to be sponsored by Extractas BioScience (Tas Alkaloids). For me this was the highlight of my agricultural pursuits. Realizing at the end of a week that I wasn't too old and past it, but rather, at the beginning of a new adventure. Marcus taught me its never too late to look after yourself and to think of others but make room for yourself - don't put your life on hold. That's not being selfish but enabling you to do the things that you would like to have a go at.

I came away with great ideas by networking, listening to others, learning, and taking on board from others new ideas, what to do and what to not do, giving me a whole new prospective on life and encouraged me to send out the CVs applying for agricultural jobs and positions, talking to the financial institutions about my agricultural business and about buying a rural property. I came home so much more positive and fired up with ideas. I would recommend this course to anyone to attend. Very well worth it.

Lesley Pyecroft



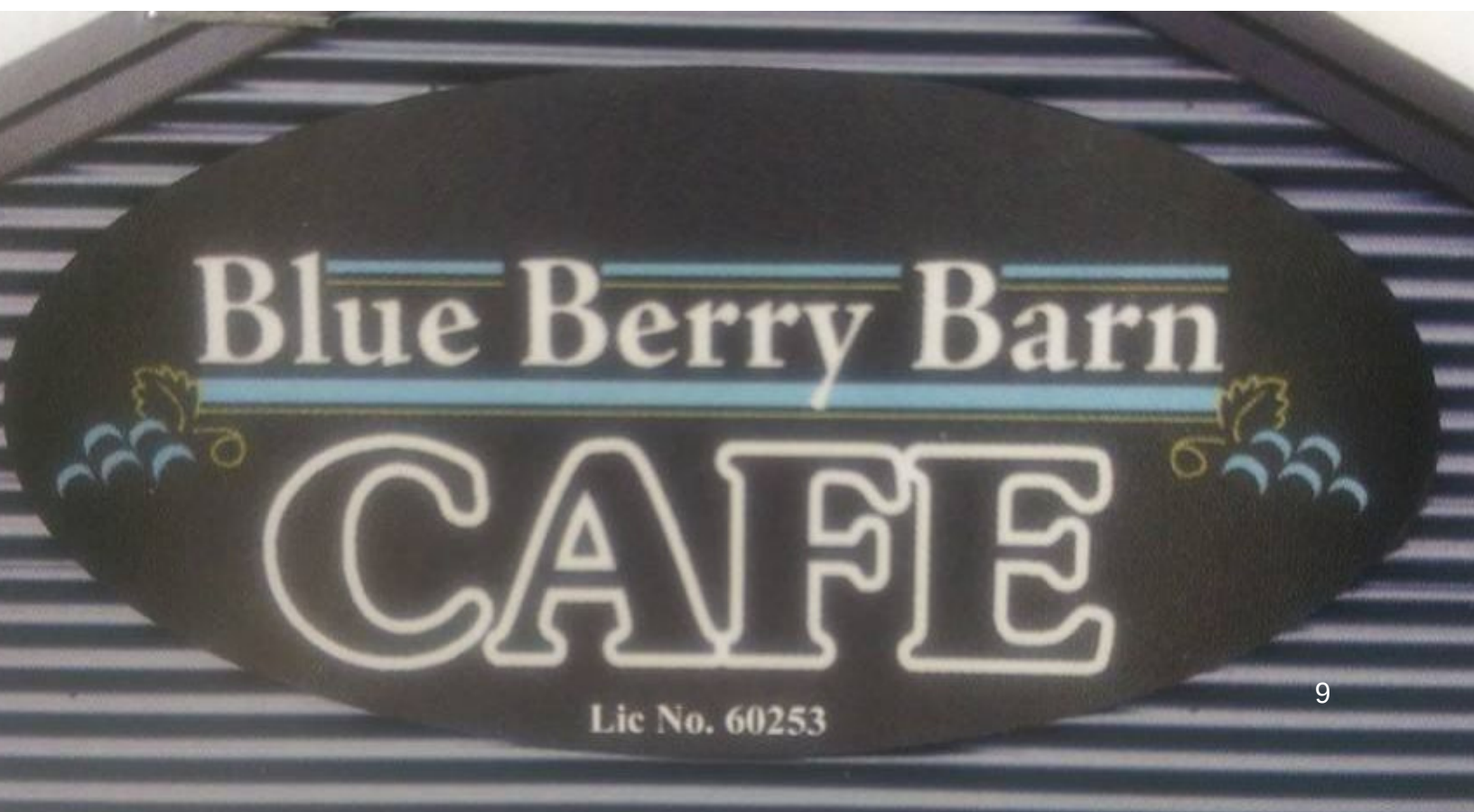


West Tamar Regional Group Blue Berry Barn Cafe

A small group of TWiA members met at the Blue Berry Barn Café in Frankford on Wednesday 25th May. We chatted, shared interesting information about all manner of things and made some great suggestions for future events.

Deb, the owner of the café, told us her story, how from a childhood desire to own/run a café she now has this wonderful place which has become a really valuable & treasured part of the local community & is equally loved by visitors passing through. An interesting and inspirational story. Follow your dreams! We spent so much time deep in conversation, that we completely forgot to take photos of the group!

Deb enjoyed the company of the group so much and was interested in the things that were discussed that she's decided to join TWiA and would love to host another catch-up...next time at the height of blueberry season. We're already looking forward to that.

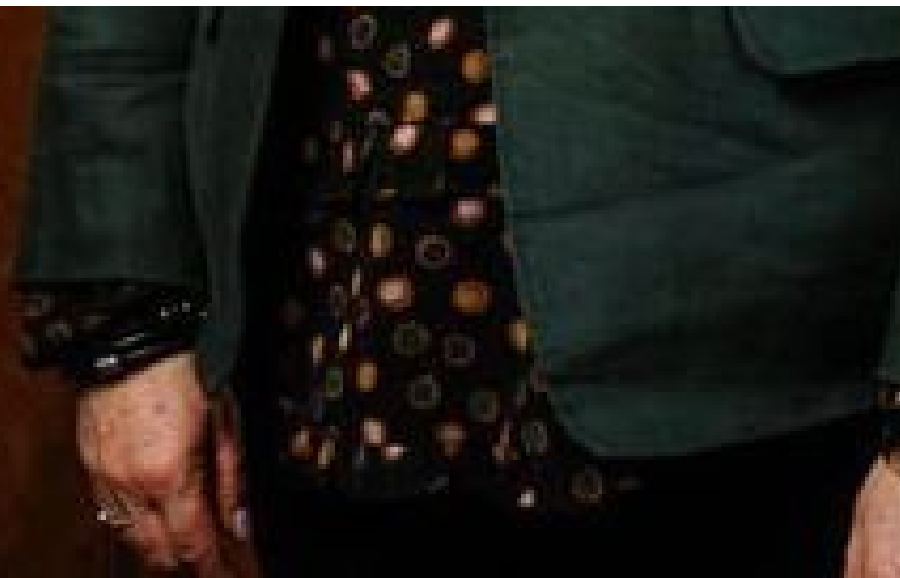




Belinda Hazell Order of Australia Medal



At the start of the year huge congratulations were sent to our very own Belinda Hazell on being awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her work in the agricultural sector and raising awareness of the role of women in the industry. Belinda has been a champion of TWiA throughout the organisation's history and we couldn't be prouder of this achievement.



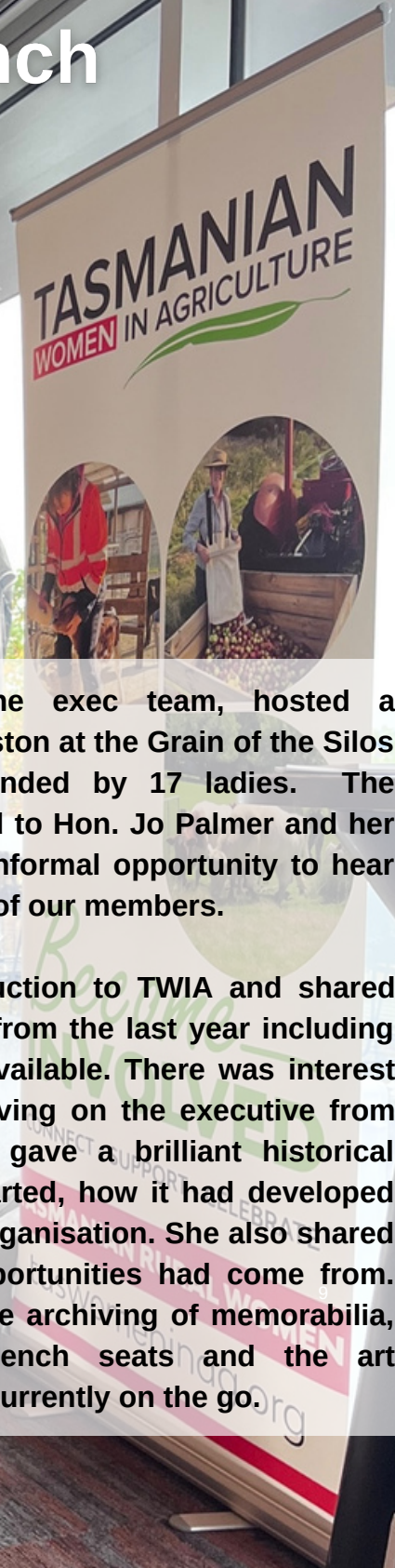


Congratulations to Steph Trethewey who won the AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award for Tasmania. It means that her project, Motherland Village will be able to be accelerated and will grow as a result of this award. Through her own experience and the stories that have been shared with her, she discovered that mums in Rural Australia were isolated, lacked support networks like mothers' groups, and were left to deal with the emotional and psychological toll that new motherhood (actually, all motherhood) takes. Motherland Village is connecting mums in rural areas through an online platform to create a small community where they can support each other through this turbulent time. It is a worthy project to win this award, and there are high hopes that this project will receive even more funding with the announcement of the Australian Rural Woman of the Year in September.

Congratulations also to Sally Murfet of Inspire AG who received a runner-up encouragement award and Kate Field who received a runner-up development award to further the development of Leapful Skin . Both awards are sponsored by TWiA. Pic from left to right: Kate Field, Stephanie Trethewey, Sally Murfet.



Networking Lunch



Deb and Rachel from the exec team, hosted a networking lunch in Launceston at the Grain of the Silos restaurant which was attended by 17 ladies. The invitation was also extended to Hon. Jo Palmer and her staff member Laura as an informal opportunity to hear about TWIA and meet some of our members.

Rachel gave a brief introduction to TWIA and shared some of the past activities from the last year including the training opportunities available. There was interest in knowing more about serving on the executive from new members. Deb then gave a brilliant historical summary of when TWIA started, how it had developed and the importance of the organisation. She also shared where our funding and opportunities had come from. She shared her work on the archiving of memorabilia, the installation of the bench seats and the art installation initiative that is currently on the go.





The group were clearly engaged and very interested and responsive to Deb's stories and her passion for women in Ag.

A highlight was the request for Deb's notes by the Minister as she stated she would like to do a special interest piece in parliament on TWIA. She was clearly enthusiastic about our organisation and the invitation to set up a meeting to discuss questions raised and collaborate was a wonderful outcome.

Scottsdale Bench

TWIA had commissioned a seat to be made as part of an art project to recognise towns in Tasmania which are important places in the history of TWIA. This seat, the first of several planned, was unveiled in Scottsdale (this is where the first Gathering for TWIA took place)

Many of the original TWiA founding members attended the unveiling and morning tea. We'd very much like to thank Tania Rattray MLC for unveiling the bench for us and providing us with a delicious morning tea afterwards. Thanks also to Mayor Greg Howard and his team for granting permission to have the bench placed in Scottsdale and for installing it.

More benches are planned to be installed in other regional areas.



TASMANIAN **WOMEN** IN AGRICULTURE



AGM

22 September, 2022

11.30am

The business of the AGM will be to:

- receive annual reports from the previous year,
- appoint an auditor for the coming year,
- elect new executive committee members, and
- recognise and honour our MORLP scholarship recipients.

Villarett Gardens
789 Railton Rd, Kimberley

\$40 pp includes 2 course meal
Tickets available at
www.taswomeninag.org



GUEST SPEAKER
STEPHANIE TRETHERWEY
Agrifutures Rural Women's
Award (Tasmania) 2022,
Founder & CEO
Motherland

TASMANIAN **WOMEN** IN AGRICULTURE

Join us as we

Celebrate

**THE UNVEILING OF OUR
ART INSTALLATION PANELS**

*A weekend of connecting, supporting
and celebrating*

FRI OCT 21, 2022

**Unveiling of Art
Installation Panels**

Athol R. McLennan Reserve

Followed by refreshments at

Mechanics Hall,
King St, Scottsdale

SAT OCT 22, 2022

**Choice of 3 bus tours
Gala Dinner**

with guest speaker

Felicity Richards

Scottsdale Football Club Rooms

For details and registration visit
www.taswomeninag.org

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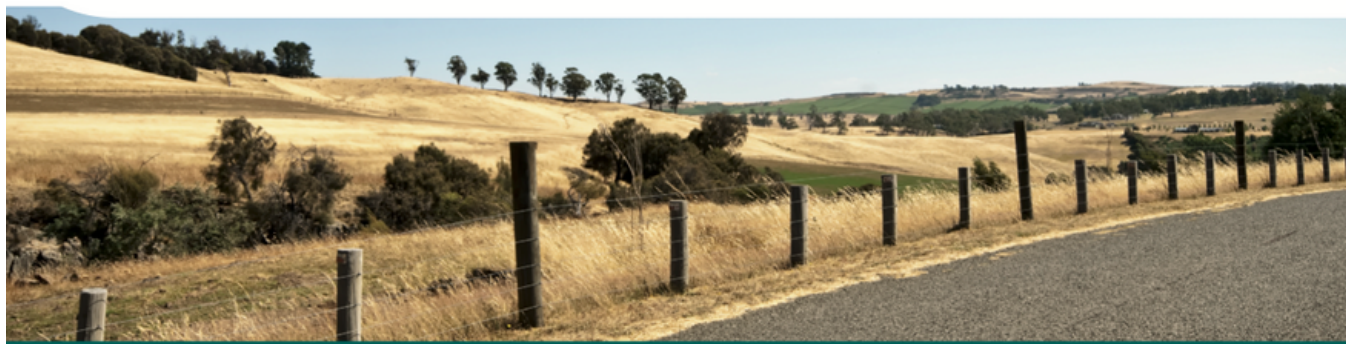
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