

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



Bluegum

March 2024

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING
TASMANIAN RURAL WOMEN

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



Chair Report Deb Morice



Already in March, where has the time gone since Christmas!

At our last meeting in 2023 and our first meeting in February, we as an executive have concluded that while it is great to have the grant money, we need to be innovative in the ways we deliver the programs we said we would deliver.

Collaboration with other organisations and providers will be our focus in rolling out our programs for 2024 and beyond.

With such a small executive we are certainly struggling with all the roles and responsibilities that go with the positions, and time and time again I am seeing the

same faces from the executive on the other committees like PNG and Gathering. We really do need to recruit members to help with the roll out of our programs and events.

This Bluegum is another challenge to produce, and I remember going back for some years it always has been hard to get content in a timely manner. We don't print anymore because those days were a nightmare and needed even more resources.

I'd like to make a PLEA for help with any role you feel you may be able to spend some time helping one of the executives to carry out. I am not asking for hours just some assistance in perhaps coordination of the Bluegum, EGumnut or registrations at events.

Membership needs to be a focus this year and to attract new membership we need to be out and about. Again, if you can spare some time to be our face and attract more members, especially the younger generation, please let us know.

The gathering committee are working hard and it will be lovely to see everyone in the Tamar Valley in May 2024. There will be some excellent presenters, tours and of course a gathering dinner. Past, Present and Future will be the themes for the weekend.

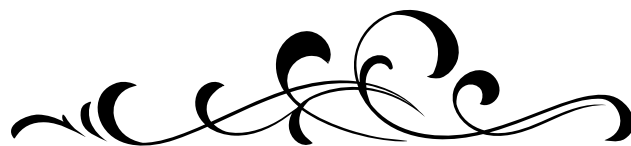
MORLP (May and August) and Agrifutures Rural Women's Award in April are other highlights on the calendar for TWiA along with other programs that will be advertised as they become available.

Passata Day for International Women's Day proved a success. Thank you to our Exec Team organisers, attendees, Larna Pittiglio from Heartlands and Rosie Nash, CEO HealthLit4Everyone!

Grab a drink, relax and read all about what is happening for 2024.

Take care.

Deb Morice



30th Anniversary Gathering by Fiona Stocker

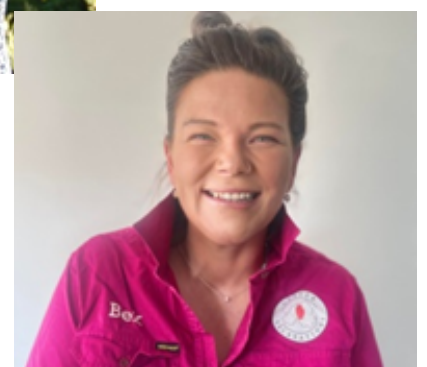
News of the 30th Anniversary Gathering in the Tamar Valley from 24-26 May – save the dates!

We hope you'll join us in the Tamar Valley for this very special Gathering on TWiA's 30th Anniversary. Events, farm tours, dinner and some great panel discussions and guest speakers are coming together, and tickets go on sale from the TWiA website on 22nd March. Here's some news about what will be happening.

FRIDAY EVENING – Rowella Hall, 5-8pm

Join us for the opening of the Gathering with a panel discussion celebrating the past. It's thirty years since the beginnings of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture with that very first special event in Scottsdale. Joining us on Friday is a panel of founder members Joan Field, Deb Morice and Maureen Holland, for a look at the seismic changes that this coming together of farming women brought about. Chairing the panel will be Rebekah Frankcombe of certified organic dairy farm Mt Ellie.

There will be platters for sustenance, a lucky door prize, and the bar will be open. Collect your lanyards and Gathering bags on the night – and catch up with friends from far and wide.



SATURDAY FARM TOURS – start time TBC

Choose from three farm tours for a glimpse into the small scale and artisan farming and production the Tamar Valley specializes in. All tours start and end at Exeter Showgrounds and include informative farm visits, picnic box lunch and bus commentary.

FARM TOUR 1 – WEST TAMAR (South)

Tamar Valley Wetlands – a unique ecosystem, bird and wildlife on our doorstep

Brady's Lookout Cider cellar door – tour and lunch

Notley Valley Farm – regenerative agriculture with cattle and goats

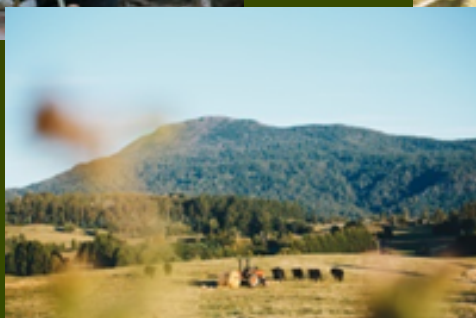


FARM TOUR 2 – EAST TAMAR

Summerlea Farm – quality Angus cattle and a thriving Beef Box business

Fork it Farm – ethically raised Berkshire pigs, small-batch artisan products and spectacular farm shop

Since the east Tamar is the home of Tasmanian sparkling wines, this tour may include a vineyard – further details to come.



30th Anniversary Gathering (continued)

FARM TOUR 3 – WEST TAMAR (north)

Petuna Aquaculture – a rare opportunity to visit the salmon farm on the Tamar River at Rowella



York Town Organics – certified organic market garden producing micro-salads, herbs and root crops for top restaurants and retail outlets



Saturday evening dinner – 6.30 for 7pm

Join us for a celebratory Gathering dinner featuring the produce of the region prepared by a guest chef – more details to come. To be held at Glendale Vineyard's Orchard Shed, now a sumptuous farm venue for celebrations and events, just south of Beaconsfield.

Guest speaker is Ruth Nettle, who leads the Rural Innovation Research Group at the University of Melbourne. Ruth formerly worked as a Dairy Extension Officer with the Department of Primary Industries in Tasmania's northeast and witnessed firsthand the profound benefits brought about by TWiA.



SUNDAY MORNING – 9.30 onwards

Sunday morning brings morning tea served at the Exeter Hub and a much anticipated visit from insect farming pioneer Olympia Yarger as our guest speaker. Olympia is the founder of the Insect Protein Association of Australia and the agri-tech start-up Goterra. In 2023 she was named the ACT's Australian of the Year.



Ticket sales for the Gathering open on 22nd March from the TWiA website, full program coming soon.

Farm Business Resilience Program

by Belinda Hazell



Become future ready – there is a lot to plan for.

A variable climate can mean your business has to be ready for all or some of droughts, floods, fires, and new pests and diseases. Farming inputs may be of short supply or difficult to access at times. Input prices may sometimes be high and resources including labour will have to be used more efficiently. The business may have to offset its emissions and look after biodiversity. New technologies and tools will be available to help.

There are two programs that are available to Tasmanian producers to help your business cope with climate related production and business risks. These are:

- Dairy producers: Dairy Australia's Our Farm, Our Plan.
- Mixed farming, red meat, fibre, cropping horticultural, apicultural, viticultural and aquacultural* farmers: Resilient Farming Tas Program.

**Note: wild catch fishing and public listed aquacultural companies are excluded under Future Drought Fund Guidelines.*

Our Farm Our Plan: is designed to help dairy farmers set long term goals, improve business performance and manage risk. The simple review and planning process with group workshops and one-on-one support for farmers, gets your ideas down on paper and into action. Whether it be growing your herd, investing in new equipment, building business management confidence, planning for succession, or creating more time for yourself, Our Farm, Our Plan can help.

For further information about the Our Farm, Our Plan, visit the Dairy Tas website :

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairytas/farm-business/our-farm-our-plan

Resilient Farming Tas is the Program dedicated to collaborating with individual farming businesses across a broad range of sectors in to prepare a Farm Business Resilience Plan. The aim of this Program is to support individual farming businesses to access a diverse range of tools to effectively identify risk and access information to address the effects of climate variability. Expect one-on-one support, engaging group workshops and coaching where each farmer has the freedom to choose their own content as they navigate through the program to develop their Plan. Addressing issues and seizing opportunities, whether related to production dynamics, soil biodiversity, worker and team dynamics, family transitions, farm safety or mental health, this Program is tailored to individual needs. The final 'Plan on a Page' will list priority actions and opportunities for each farming business.

To learn more and register for the Resilient Farming Tas program, visit www.tasfarmingfutures.com.au/resilient-farming-tas.



Will Eddington (Richmond Park Estate) and Belinda Hazell (Resilient Farming Tas program Delivery Partner)

Farm Business Resilience Program (continued)

by Belinda Hazell

So why participate? Why bother? By planning for predicted changes your business can be better protected. You will be preparing the people and the land to minimise the risk of damage and loss in difficult times. Your Plan will provide a framework for action and can also be used in grant applications to attract funding for your projects.

What does it cost? The Farm Business Resilience Program offers highly subsidised training. Dairy farmers are encouraged to contact DairyTas for details of co-contributions.

Mixed farming, red meat, fibre, cropping horticultural, apicultural, viticultural and aquacultural* farmers are required to make an upfront co-contribution of \$550 (including GST), with the remainder of the training costs covered by the Resilient Farming Tas Program.

Call to Action:

These programs, together with our SIPP initiatives, provide a terrific opportunity for our members. We want to coordinate a TWiA group to participate jointly in the Program so that we can deliver targeted workshops and coaching to benefit each member. To enable this to occur, please register your interest for the relevant industry program and where indicated, note that you are a member of TWiA. We aim to have the first group commence in June.



Sasha Brightman (Resilient Farming Tas program Delivery Team)



Bee Registration

by Sue Weedon

Registration is now compulsory for all Tasmanian beekeeping activities. There is no cost to become registered and registration will remain free for at least the first two years (from 31 March 2023).

BeeTAS is here!

Biosecurity Tasmania has implemented a new online registration system, designed to assist beekeepers with registration as well as manage their apiary sites. The new online system will allow beekeepers to: register or renew their registration; view and maintain apiary site information; record inspection details, hive purchases, disposals, and hive movements; upload training certification and laboratory results

BeeTAS will greatly increase Biosecurity Tasmania's emergency preparedness and ability to respond to exotic honeybee pests and diseases. It will also enhance Biosecurity Tasmania's ability to efficiently share information with registered Tasmanian beekeepers. BeeTAS is a secure platform, hosted on data-protected servers in line with Tasmanian Government cyber-security policies.

Beekeepers can access BeeTAS via the Biosecurity Portal at biosecurityportal.tas.gov.au. More information on BeeTAS is available at nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/BeeTAS%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf

Need to register as a beekeeper?

If you have registered as a beekeeper in Tasmania since December 2022, your information has been automatically carried across to BeeTAS. You can login to BeeTAS using the email you provided when you first registered.

Instructional material on how to access and use BeeTAS is available in the following document: re.tas.gov.au/Documents/BeeTAS%20User%20Guide.pdf

If you have any other questions regarding BeeTAS, please call (03) 6165 3777 or contact Biosecurity Tasmania at honeybee.biosecurity@nre.tas.gov.au.

For more information visit:

nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/bees

PNG Visit Update

by Liese Fearman

(Chair of PNG visit committee)

Getting There is Half the Battle!

The challenge of getting everyone where they need to be is familiar to every parent. Six am swimming practice versus much needed sleep, footie conflicting with netball, after work meetings with pick up time at child care. We have all been there – and breathed a sigh of relief when we've got them all where they were going!

In Papua New Guinea, the rugged terrain, heavy rainfall and challenging roads make getting people where they need to go a bigger challenge still. When our PNG visitors arrive in May, many will have been on a plane, in an airport, and outside the country for the very first time. To get that far, they will have travelled on roads like those you can see in these photos.

When they arrive in Tassie, we hope they will experience warm hospitality that will make it all worthwhile. And when they leave, we want them to have memories to last a lifetime; inspiration to overcome obstacles we would not even imagine; and a germ of an idea to grow agricultural projects that will benefit generations of their family into the future.

It's a lot to hope for. Will you be with us?



On foot is often the only way to get there.



Public transport PNG style.



Above: Safe buses for women in town.



Left: When things go wrong, as they sometimes will

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Tamar Valley Paddock Picnic At Fork It Farm by Mandy Cooper

On Sunday 11th February members of the Tamar Valley Tasmanian Women in Agriculture met for lunch at Fork It Farm in Lebrina.

Our hosts Kim and Daniel told us their story of how they gave up jobs in education and science moved from Brisbane to Lebrina in North East Tasmania and began farming pigs. We were shown the small scale artisan products they make on farm in the Meat Shed and were educated on the process and time it takes to produce such amazing products. After that we adjourned to the picnic area and enjoyed a delightful lunch with 3 generations of Kim's family who also live at Fork It Farm. The platters were enormous and showcased their products and a delightful afternoon was enjoyed by all.





Passata Day – International Women’s Day Event

Were you lucky enough to secure a ticket to our sold out event – Passata Day, a celebration for International Women’s Day?

No one could have predicted the town of Deviot would be THE place to be on Sunday March 10th!

Women, men and kilos of tomatoes made their way into Deviot Community Hall for a day filled with laughter and music. The air was ripe with the aroma of tomatoes, along with the hopes of many wanting to learn the secrets to turning those tomatoes into homemade passata.

Thank you to everyone who organised, attended and made the day so fabulous. It was a great learning experience and way to celebrate International Women's Day!





Winnaleah Drought and Climate Change Event

by Jeanette Reader

On Thursday 29th February Deb and I travelled to Winnaleah for the first of our collaborations with the Innovation Hub, Rural Alive and Well, Rural Business Tas and Rural Youth.

The evening started with a BBQ by the local Winnaleah Rotary Club and general get together of participants and farmers.

Tom Remenyi presented a very entertaining presentation on climate change with some very thought-provoking graphs. The information was relevant to the Northeast and gave a great insight into the changing weather patterns and climate events. The presentation provided insight into the future preparedness of farmers to adapt to these changes.

After Tom's presentation was Marek Matuzek, from Aglogic who presented us with a look into how we water and when we water, from research with probes and many years of experience.

When this drought management and weather forecasting event comes to your region, get along to it. It is well worth the few hours spent with your locals and our collaborative groups and not forgetting the free BBQ.

A big thank you those involved in putting this event together, it was a great evening.



Jeanette Reader, Craig Steele, Deb Morice and Drew Carter

Diversity awareness training opportunity for Rural Businesses

National Disability Services (NDS) are running a project funded by Skills Tasmania aiming to diversify the Tasmanian workforce landscape.

Come along to a free 90 minute workshop, led by a team of vibrant and engaging presenters, all of whom have lived experience of disability. Small to medium businesses across Tasmania who may be interested in diversifying their workforce by employing a person with disability are urged to attend these sessions.

You will receive tips, advice and workable strategies to take back to your workplace.

These sessions cover:

- Myths and misconceptions
- Disability etiquette
- Access, inclusion and attitudes
- Language and terminology
- Disability throughout Australia over time
- Next steps for interested employers
- Q and A with your presenting team

These obligation free sessions are part of the larger Diversifying Employment project facilitated by National Disability

Limit of 2 participants per worksite.

The first two sessions are aimed at Southern and SE Tasmanian businesses with more sessions to follow in the North and NW.

For more information and to book go to the NDS website:

www.nds.org.au/events-and-training/all-events-and-training/let-s-talk-disability-awareness-training-5121



Tamar Valley Christmas Event by Mandy Cooper

The Tamar Valley TWIA group met for a Christmas vineyard tour at Eve Morgan-Deans followed by lunch at Wilmores Bluff on Sunday 10th December 2023.

Eve's vineyard is in the early stages of growth and it was fascinating hearing their story of preparing the site, planting and the sheer hard work her husband and herself have undertaken.

It was also very inspiring and we all enjoyed sipping on some Chartley Sparkling from a vineyard just 500m away and toasting Eve's success.

Afterwards the group drove to Mandy and Carl Cooper's farm and enjoyed a Christmas lunch of home grown lamb chops and salads and desserts. We were delighted Minister Jo Palmer and Sue Weedon joined our celebrations.





Climate Risk in Practice

by Belinda Hazell

The Climate Risk in Practice event was held at Richmond Park Estate on February 29th.

The event was a day to discuss how climate risks can be integrated into business planning. Will Eddington spoke about how his farming business is adapting to climate related production and business risks and attendees were able to see what that looks like at his farm at Richmond Park Estate.

The Resilient Farming Tas program team hosted a panel of business advisors and growers who discussed how to plan for risk and opportunities.

Their business risk assessment workshop was popular, providing the tool to do a risk assessment of your farm business. RMCG Specialist Farm Business Advisor, Adrian Kennelly, chatted about issues and opportunities for farms i.e. workers, managing growth, resource management.

Sasha Brightman and Belinda Hazell facilitated the event.




Congratulations Hannah and introducing Dallas!

An exciting addition to Hannah's 2023 year was the arrival of little Dallas.

Dallas is settling in to life with his family beautifully! Almost 5 months old, loves the tractor and being outside.

Congratulations Hannah, he is simply adorable!





WFI, proud alliance partner of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA)



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