

E-GUMNUT

TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 2023 (SIPP)

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) is pleased to announce it has been successful in securing grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) to deliver a series of Beyond the Farm Gate skills development programs.

The program's objective will be to deliver a range of initiatives that will:

1. Improve the socio-economic and environmental empowerment of rural, regional and remote Tasmanian women and support their full and equal participation in decision making at all levels in both the formal and informal economies.
2. Value and support capacity building in production methods, new and emerging crops and technology, as well as strengthening biodiversity and use of regenerative agriculture to improve soil health and build resilience to climate change.
3. Improve the capacity of women entrepreneurs and small holder farmers to access opportunities including finance.
4. Promote education, training and information programs that enable women to be the best they can be on their farms and communities.

TWiA will work with new and existing partners to host a series of 14 individual programs with up to forty separate learning events across Tasmania's three regions (North, NorthWest and South) during the four years 2023 - 2026. Topics including Farm Safety, Digital Literacy, Dam and Fire Safety, Farm Leadership, Financial Structure and Succession Planning, Farm Biosecurity, Pasture Management and Weed Identificaion, Land Use and Soil Health, Super Women on Rural Roads, Innovation in Produce Marketing, Bee Keeping, Lifetime Ewe Management and Carbon Farming.



From right to left, Jo Palmer, Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industries and Water; Deb Morice, TWiA Chair and Stacey Cresswell who hosted the event on her family's Chatswood Farm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 24TH - BENCH UNVEILLING @ DELORAINE (INVITE TO COME)

MEET THE EXECUTIVE

Jeanette Reader - Treasurer

I joined TWiA around 1995/6 and met Ruth Paterson the Project Officer for TWiA. I was not from a rural background and had three children. TWiA connected me to other rural women and the rural community. I have made friends through TWiA and they have been a support and sounding board for all things. TWiA also helped with my isolation by getting me around like minded, inspirational women.

Being asked to interview for Marcus Oldham in 1998 was a major surprise, and I had doubts, once again I was encouraged by the newfound community of women. I remember being told it was for my personal growth and development. This it certainly was, the people, the range of industries that were gathered around the table were amazing and I will say I was very naïve. The exercises and discussions, dinners, (these were very important) and farm visits were amazing. Men and women were on the course and I found that I was accepted for my views and supported. You also had to stand up for yourself. I chaired the Poatina Gathering in 2000 which I would not have been able to do without the support of those brilliant rural women.

I left active involvement in TWiA for a few years as family commitments took over, but the connections I made sustained me over the years and attending events that TWiA were holding when I could.

I have begun involved with TWiA again by attending Meander Valley Group outings and watching the work done by the Executive with the benches and the panel installations, I felt very proud.

Deb Morice pleaded for more help and I put my hand up because I could see that there was a need for support. I felt that TWiA had given me so much, helping to make me who I am today and if I can give back in a small way, I have done something to help. Organisations only run with a supporting group of members, which is what I have found. At present it is a big learning curve, but I can see a very bright future for TWiA. I am enjoying working with a knowledgeable and enthusiastic committee.



WE NEED YOU!

The TWiA are looking for two new members on the Executive Committee.

One role as a general Executive Member, supporting the Executive Committee in the running of the many varied activities and opportunities for the greater TWiA community.

The second role is for a Communications Officer. The Communications Officer Will support our internal and external communications strategy, write publicity material and assist with promotional events.

The person we are seeking is a creative thinker with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Responsibilities

- Communicate with the Chair and greater Executive Committee members to develop and implement an effective communications strategy based on our member audience
- write, edit and distribute content, including publicaitons, press releases, website content, annual reports and other marketing material
- establish and maintain effective relationships with media outlets
- proficiency in design and publishing software

Committment for both roles include Zoom meeting once per month, 5-10hrs of time per month and both are volunteer roles. For further informaiton or if you are interested please reach out to taswomeninag@outlook.com

MARCUS OLDHAM RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2023 (MORLP)

Each year the Tasmanian Women in Agriculture sponsor two female attendees to the MORLP. These two attendees are chosen through a written application and interview process, with selection criteria structured around:

- Current connection, belief in and commitment to the Tasmanian and greater agricultural industry
- Contribution to and involvement in the development of community and professional field
- Demonstrating current leadership skills and willingness to represent agriculture and rural communities into the future.

TWiA have selected **Keeley Lester** and **Katelyn Petrie** as the MORLP sponsored attendees this year for the May 2023 program.

Keeley is a Food and Fibre Production Teacher at Winneleah High School who has a passion for Agricultural Education. Keeley has created the 'Agducation' online platform which facilitates resources, support and guidance for other Food and Fibre Educators.

Katelyn is the Environmental and Sustainable Production Officer at Clovelly Dairies in North East Tasmania who is striving to grow her leadership skills for herself personally and to help in her professional role.

TWiA can see the benefit that these two women in Tasmanian Agriculture will get on a personal and professional level and look forward to learning more about Keeley and Katelyn's journey in the agriculture industry.



From left to right, Keeley Lester and Katelyn Petrie, TWiA's two MORLP scholarship recipients for the 2023 course.

DEPARTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current TWiA Executive Committee would like to extend their thanks to Laurie Krauss and Lesley Pyecroft for the time they have contributed to the committee. Both Laurie and Lesley have resigned from their roles on the Executive due to work and family commitments and the team here at TWiA wish them all the best with this.

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Connecting, Supporting & Celebrating Tasmanian Rural Women