



Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group

December 2014 Newsletter

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AGM & Board Election Results:

The AGM was extremely well attended. The “Address to Members” was delivered by Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Water, **The Honourable Jeremy Rockliff**.

The Minister then presented the TAPG Annual Awards for Excellence in Agriculture to the following recipients:

- **Les Murdoch** – *“Service to the Agricultural Community”* – for his extensive service to, and several terms as Chairperson of, TAPG over many years.
- **Rose Grant** – *“Service to the Agricultural Community”* for her ambassadorial role through the media in developing the broader community’s positive perception of agriculture.
- **PASS Committee** – *Service to the Agricultural Community* – for their extensive work in promoting agricultural safe practice.
- **Rhys Palmer** – *“Life Time Achievement”* – for his major influence on the development of the Dairy Industry in Tasmania.
- **Buzz Green** – *“Life Time Achievement”* – for his pioneering role in shaping agri-business support for processing companies.

This was followed by a presentation from **Mr Bryan Hayes**, Chief Executive Officer of Forico Pty Limited. In his presentation Mr Hayes provided background detail regarding the establishment of the new company together with an inspiring vision for the future of plantation forestry in Tasmania and his company’s place within it.

Election Results:

Board Membership:

As ratified by members at AGM - 24/10/2014

Vegetable Processing	Rodney McLaren	Term concludes Oct 2016
Plantation Forestry	Jim Wilson-Chairman	Term concludes Oct 2016
Other Crop Processing	Rick Rockliff Rohan Kyle	Term concludes Oct 2015 Term commences Nov 2015 Term concludes Oct 2016
Agri-Business Marketing	Anthony Houston	Term concludes Oct 2015
Fresh Vegetables	Mark Kable	Term concludes Oct 2016
Other (Rural Banking)	Greg Bott	Term concludes Oct 2015
Discretionary (Regulatory Affairs)	Allan Barr	Term concludes Oct 2015
Vegetable Processing	Peter Hardman	Term concludes Oct 2015
Agribusiness Services	Graeme Palmer	Term concludes Oct 2015
Dairy Processing	Richard Fisher	Term concludes Oct 2016
Primary Production	Rosie Mackinnon Keith Rice	Term concludes Oct 2015 Term concludes Oct 2016
Honorary Member (non voting)	Michael Hart	Board appointment
Minister's Representative (non-voting)	Ashley Bastock	Ministerial Appointment

Caring for Country-Innovation Grants – Project Update:

All project milestones and reports have been fully completed for the year. In response, all project payments have been received from the Federal Department.

The following represents progress to date:

- The project has subsidised a small team of Tasmanians to attend the National CTF Conference. The team represented a good balance between project collaborators and project administrators. Attending this and similar conferences to raise awareness and increase knowledge is a key strategy within the funded project.
- Dobmac completed machinery modifications to our sub-soiler and we were able to have it on display at our AGM in October where it received a great deal of attention despite the inclement weather. Since then it has been on display at the Forthside Open Day and completed calibration trials. It has gone back to the workshop where some small functional alterations were carried out based on these trials. On Thursday 11 December, it carried out larger scale field trials at Turners Beach. The project team are looking at deploying it on several sites in response to various invitations and discussions. Our main usage as part of the project will not take place until late summer and autumn.
- Other machinery modifications of collaborating growers have either been completed or are well in hand at this time. In rough total some \$100,000 of project funding has been expended in the past 8 months across TAPG Member Companies. Some further expenditure on several smaller modifications is predicted in the second year of the project.

We look forward to reporting on the project as it unfolds over the next two years.

Photos that follow show our machine during modification work at the Dobmac workshop and during the field trials at Turner's Beach. The last photo shows the Victorian sub-soiler that we were considering hiring. It is clear by comparison that modifying our own machine has produced a far superior product.





For further information, including requests for involvement, please contact the Executive Officer.



Precision Agriculture Forum:

This was held in August at Devonport. Several TAPG member companies feel that the development of a coherent approach to PA usage will enhance productivity. Our Executive Officer attended the Forum as our own project has very strong linkages with the goals of the PA group.

The well planned program featured a number of presenters including consultants with huge “practical” experience from the mainland.

It was resolved that a representative committee of those attending on the day would be formed and that their first task would be to seek funding through submission to the State Government’s

“Productivity” incentive funding scheme. TAPG will be represented by the Executive Officer on the committee.

The committee may need to act as a further sub-committee of TAPG in order to better advance and manage its request for funding.

Directors Peter Hardman, Graeme Palmer, Rick Rockliff and Keith Rice are well placed to guide the committee through their leadership and involvement in the forum.

Regardless of funding success a Precision Agriculture Expo featuring Trade Show exhibits, practical working demonstrations and presentations by practising exponents will be held in late April. Updates and full details will be sent to members in the New Year.

Review of the Primary Industry Protection Act 1995:

Following our submission (separate attachment) and subsequent discussions with AK Consultants, TAPG wrote to Ms Mary Messina who is chairing the planning reform task force and alerted her to our interest in the work of her committee. This letter also provided “in principle” support for the views expressed by AK Consultants in their representations to her. I have resolved with Astrid Ketelaar (AK Consultants) that she will represent both AK Consultants and TAPG in these matters and keep us posted on developments.

To this end Astrid joined our December Board meeting prior to lunch and provided an update that emphasised the significance of the imminent release of the Launceston Planning Scheme as a “sample regulatory framework” that other local government jurisdictions will look to when composing their own schemes.

Key points endorsed in our original submission were:

- TAPG supports the continuing need for this legislation.
- We acknowledge that the legislation does not override “environmental legislation”.
- Supportive of the development of a “Rurality Disclosure” document.
- Plantation Forestry needs to be explicitly included in the legislation’s definition of “agriculture”.
- Recommend the use of “Good Neighbour Charters”.
- The existence of such legislation is unique in Australia and enhances our reputation as a leading state in providing an appropriate administrative framework for agriculture.

For Comments or other feedback on this Newsletter please contact the Executive Officer:

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