



**RURAL YOUTH**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 - 2025





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## Rural Youth Positions

<< As at 30th June 2025

### Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable  
**Barbara Baker AC**,  
Governor of Tasmania

### Rural Youth Board

#### State President

Amber Bramich

#### Vice President

Rory Eaton

#### Agfest Chair

Dylan Bellchambers

### General Board Members

Samantha Pyke  
Jessica Temple  
Sarah Young  
Jake Williams  
Owen Woolley  
Ashtyn Willey (Intern)

### Independent Board Members

Matt Ryan  
Andrew Parsons  
David Dunn

### Rural Youth Staff

**CEO** Karen Robinson  
**Operations and Finance Manager**  
Linda Perkins  
**Events and Venue Manager**  
Sharee Hogan  
**Member Services Manager**  
Luci Venn  
**Quercus Park Caretaker**  
Jade Hall  
**Sponsorship Manager**  
Rosalynne Rees

### Life Members

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)  
Mrs Carol Axton  
Mr T.B. Stancombe (dec.)  
Mr John Dent  
Mr Don Walker (dec.)  
Mr Noel Beven  
Mr C.A. Holland (dec.)  
Mr Wesley Hazell  
Mr Darryl Barker

Mr Chris Williams  
Mr D. Bennett (dec.)  
Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons  
Mr Henry Burbury  
Ms Helen Geard  
Mr Peter Gladwell  
Mr E.C. Mackay (dec.)  
Mr Dale Badcock  
Mr Keith Topfer (dec.)  
Mr Richard Colman

Mr Graeme Tole (dec.)  
Ms Elizabeth Skirving  
Mr David Dunn  
Mr Brett Mackenzie  
Mr Ian Mackenzie  
Mr Paul Bennett  
Mrs Jayne (Badcock) Clark  
Mr Ronald Gunn  
Mr Bruce Harvey

# State President Report

2025 has been an exciting and rewarding year for Rural Youth as we celebrate 75 years of our incredible organisation, making a difference in the lives of young Tasmanians. The Rural Youth vision, to connect, develop and celebrate young Tasmanians has been at the forefront through a jam packed social calendar, a multitude of training and self development opportunities and award and scholarship recipients recognised.

2025 saw our first outgoing international exchangees since covid, with Hayden Richardson heading to New Zealand, Ashtyn Willey going to Northern Ireland and Scotland, Alex Robins off to Austria, Matthew Wadley going to Switzerland and Sean Schofield went on a self-nominated study tour to participate in the Young Dairy Network Ireland tour. Feedback from our members has been extremely positive as they've had the opportunity to experience different cultures, new or alternative farming methods and make new friends. We welcomed incoming exchangees also, Kirsten from Northern Ireland, Carla from New Zealand and Hannah from Austria.

The social committee reformed this year, and along with this came regular social events on the Rural Youth calendar, giving members an opportunity to hang out, get to know one another and have some fun outside of our usual working bees and annual events.

Training opportunities were plentiful this year with free governance training which we had an incredible turn out for, this training upskilled members on good governance, role responsibilities, and what a well functioning team/committee requires. This year we had members complete their skid steer, elevated work platform, side by side and forklift courses/competencies, readying members to tackle Agfest as well as upskilling for jobs and tasks beyond the boundaries of Quercus Park. Lime Finance,

one of our sponsors, ran finance workshops for members around the state which members got a lot of personal and business financial knowledge out of. We also had a return of farm tours this year with visits to a leading beef cattle producer and berry farm.

The 2024-2025 membership year saw recognition of members who've shown passion for Rural Youth. This year, we were proud to award the Rural Youth Scholarship to Jessica Richards, who is currently studying to become a physiotherapist. Samantha Pyke who has sat on the Rural Youth Board for the past two years and has also held the President role at North Motton club was selected to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program. Jake Williams was presented with the Graeme Tole Memorial Award at the 2024 AGM. This award is recognition of Jake's dedication to the organisation over the past 13+ years being involved at a club level, region level, sitting on the Rural Youth Board and serving as the State President in 2020 and 2021. Jake has recently touched down in New Zealand, the prize for this award. At our State Ball North Motton received the Top Club Award, Navneet Kaur was recognised as the Best New Member and Jess Temple, Devonport club President and Social Committee chairperson was awarded Most Outstanding Member. The Saturday night of Agfest 2025 saw past member, Bruce Harvey awarded Life Membership for his considerable service to the organisation.



**Amber Bramich**

2025 Rural Youth State President

In January this year the Central Highlands Rural Youth club reformed thanks to a dedicated bunch drumming up interest in the area. Hagley Rural Youth ran its most successful Rural Rumble event yet bringing attendees together with line dancing and fantastic headline music acts. Devonport Club hosted an exciting Rural Rally getting members to explore the Northern Midlands area in depth. Tamar, Oatlands and Brighton ran Ute competitions at events in their local communities. Dog high jumps were a hit around the state with North Motton, Tamar, Sorell, Hagley, Brighton, Kingborough Huon putting on events to test the agility of dogs at local ag shows. Tasman have contributed to their local community through rubbish clean ups and barbeques. All clubs are doing an incredible job at running regular meetings and activities engaging members all around the state.

Agfest was massive this year! Every club was represented through

volunteering and/or participation in the club scarecrow competition. The comradery and mateship shown throughout Agfest as members come together to pull off one of the biggest events in our

state is nothing short of amazing.

I am honoured to have been the State President this year, supported by fantastic staff and Board Directors, including Vice

President, Rory Eaton. It has been a pleasure connecting with and working with members throughout the state. I am excited to see what Rural Youth members can achieve in the next 12 months.

## Making a Difference

Thank you for supporting Rural Youth Tasmania! Your support makes a real difference and allows us to deliver our vision, to Connect, Develop & Celebrate young Tasmanians. Here is a snapshot of what has been achieved this year.....



### 4260 Hours

4260 volunteer hours were contributed during Agfest week



### 4336 Hours

4336 hours were invested in planning and meetings directly related to Agfest



### 468 Hours

The Rural Youth Board dedicated 468 hours to governance, oversight and finances.



### 292 Attendees

to 6 formal social events across the state



### Countless Catchups



### Formal Training

Formal training for skid steer, Elevated Work Platform & Forklift licences



### Governance & Finance

Workshops



### Skills Workshop

Introduction to basic welding & driving a tractor



### Travel

Members travelled to the UK, NZ, Austria & Switzerland for education, exchange and experience in Agriculture



### Gold Coast

3 travelled to the Gold Coast to hear the latest in shows and field days



*Rural Youth has helped my grow as a person and create state wide friends that are more like family.*

*- Lily Jones*



# CEO Report

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that while challenges were ever-present, so too were moments of progress and celebration.

Agfest continues to be a source of pride, with another successful event drawing strong community support. This year's crowd numbers increased by 1,900 to reach 55,560 attendees. Comparing these numbers to the beautiful weather has given us a benchmark for future planning and managing our resources effectively, regardless of the conditions we face.

We also introduced Bluey and Bingo on Thursday and Friday to help boost attendance on those days. This family-friendly initiative was well-received and contributed positively to early-week engagement.

Outside of Agfest we continue to promote Quercus Park as a unique event venue and location, our site hire numbers are increasing.

However, the year was not without its challenges. Severe weather events tested our resilience, including a significant incident where a fallen tree in the compound rendered the Tullah accommodation unusable. This impacted our member accommodation and has resulted in over 12 months of delays as we await the resolution of insurance claims.

Behind the scenes, we've continued to strengthen our infrastructure. We worked with a wide range of experts to develop a solution for our fire safety system. By the end of the financial year, the design and plans had been finalised and officially signed off by the Chief Fire Officer — a major milestone — we are now in a position to go to tender in the coming year.

Funding was a key focus. We were especially encouraged to receive bipartisan backing from both the Liberal and Labor parties ahead of the 2025 Tasmanian election, for the fire system. In addition to the \$350,000 grant to build a shed for Dairy Tas to use at Agfest which we received from the Rockliff Liberal Government.

The Civil Contractors Academy is on track to be in operation at Quercus Park by February/March 2026.

After several delays and false starts, we're pleased to report that construction of the new office has now commenced, with completion expected by December 2025. This development will significantly improve our operational capacity moving forward.

In addition, the introduction of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework has required us to reflect deeply on our policies and practices. We are committed to meeting these important standards while maintaining the unique identity and values that



*Karen Robinson*

**Karen Robinson**  
Rural Youth CEO

define our organisation.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers, staff, stakeholders, and broader community. It is through your ongoing support and commitment that we continue to grow stronger and meet our vision to Connect, Develop & Celebrate Young Tasmanians.



# Property Management Working Group Report

It has been another challenging year for the group.

Storm damage and aging infrastructure, combined with developing amenities to meet the strategic goal of developing Quercus Park into a leading event centre saw the group managing multiple agendas with limited capital.



We lost Tullah in the members compound from September onwards, due to the presence of asbestos and difficulties in processing our insurance claim because of lengthy delays in contractors providing the necessary reports and recommendations.

Construction of the Bison Shed was completed and the State Government also awarded Rural Youth \$350,000 of grant funding towards a permanent shed for Dairy Tas' use at Agfest. This is a joint project between Dairy Tas and Rural Youth Tasmania, with both entities contributing funding towards the finished product. It is due for completion by Agfest 2026.

Work continued on refining the plans for the office build at Quercus Park. Tasbuilt were engaged with the building to be in place by the end of December 2025.

The most time-consuming project has been the ongoing investigations and planning to bring our fire system to the required level. This has taken various consultants and engineers the best part of two years to finalise and get the plans to a point where they have been signed off by the Chief Fire Officer. Prior to the mid July election we were able to secure bi partisan support for a \$500K grant towards the cost of upgrading our existing system. This is another project which is on track to be delivered before Agfest 2026.

The installation of the members refurbished ablution block purchased from Wynyard was not as successful as originally hoped, however another building has been sourced and options for an additional building explored. All recognise this has tested

everyone's patience, however we are confident all issues have now been resolved.

Progress has been made on the 3 - 5 year plan for Quercus Park, identifying priorities for the coming 12 months and beyond.

We look forward to finalising many of these projects in the next financial year.

**Karen Robinson**

On behalf of the Property Management Working Group



# Agfest Report

## Another Year – Bigger Achievements.

As another financial year comes to a close, so too did Agfest 2025 — and what an incredible achievement it has been. The dedication and energy of our Rural Youth members and volunteers delivered an outstanding event that I am deeply thankful for and immensely proud of.

With 55,560 people through the gates, 627 exhibitors, and more than 90 volunteers, Agfest 2025 was once again a showcase of what young Tasmanians can achieve when we work together. Blessed with favourable weather, we welcomed our patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, who officially opened the event and toured the site, engaging warmly with our members, exhibitors, and patrons.

The grounds were alive with activity — from heritage machinery and 4WD demonstrations to live music, and sheep dog trials in the newly positioned sheep dog trial arena. The expanded Equine and Livestock Precinct, featuring the launch of the Tasracing Equine Arena, added even more excitement. A particular highlight was the rebirth of Tas Petroleum Central Arena with the debut of Bluey and Bingo, which delighted families and drew thousands of young visitors to Central Arena!

This year's lead-up was the smoothest I've experienced, thanks to those who gave countless hours onsite to ensure everything ran seamlessly. Their commitment meant the site was not only highly functional but also presented at the highest standard — clean, tidy, and professional throughout the three days. I've received countless compliments on the quality of presentation and the positive atmosphere created.

Agfest is more than just an event — it is a vital platform for our state's agricultural industry, regional businesses, and community to come together. The spending, connections, and opportunities created over three days flow far beyond Quercus Park, boosting Tasmania's economy and reinforcing the role of agriculture as a cornerstone of our state.

I cannot express enough gratitude to our members, volunteers, contractors, and employees. It has been a privilege to work alongside such an enthusiastic and capable team. Agfest's success also relies



*d bellchambers*

**Dylan Bellchambers**  
Agfest Chair 2025

on the unwavering support of our sponsors, exhibitors, and patrons — each of whom play a vital role in ensuring the event continues to thrive.

As my term as Chair concludes, I am both proud of what we have achieved and excited for the future. I leave knowing the next committee will carry this momentum forward, leaving their own mark on the growth and evolution of Agfest.





# 2023 - 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

## OUR VISION

TO CONNECT, DEVELOP AND CELEBRATE  
YOUNG TASMANIANS TOGETHER!

## OUR GOALS

### PEOPLE & CULTURE

Recognised for making positive contributions to the development of individuals & their communities.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure Rural Youth remains successful & relevant for the next generation of young Tasmanians.

### OPERATIONS

Provide appropriate resources to grow income streams & maximise return on investment.

## OUR PRIORITIES

- Improve communication & engagement with our members.
- Create a positive culture where our values are a lived experience for our members & stakeholders.
- Support and work more closely with Clubs.

- Ensure roles & opportunities are fit for purpose to meet current & future members needs.
- Partner with like minded organisations to provide new opportunities and share resources to reduce costs as appropriate.

- Develop a master plan for Quercus Park.
- Investigate & implement alternate income streams which maximise the use of Quercus Park.
- Invest strategically in the development & growth of Agfest.
- Agricultural Field Days to grow market share.

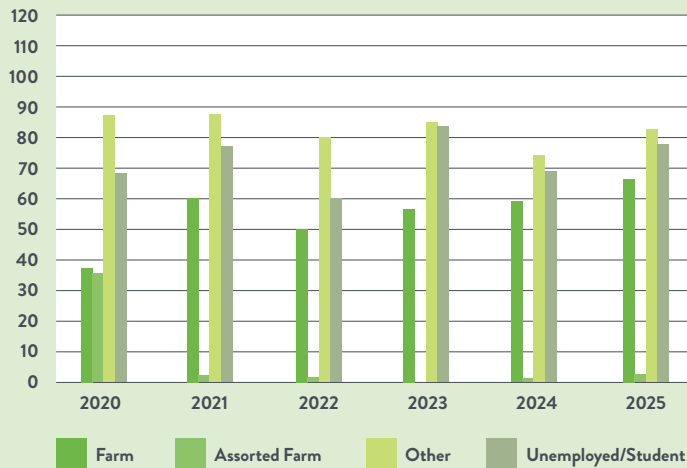
## OUR VALUES

BASED ON FRIENDSHIP, FUN, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGING A 'HAVE A GO MENTALITY'  
WE BELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE DO GREAT THINGS!

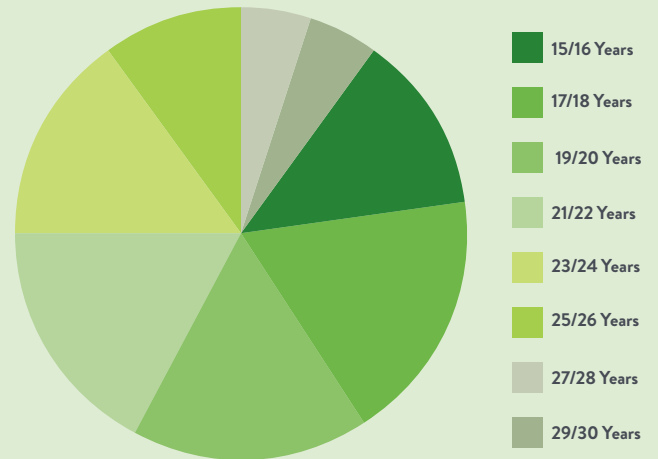


# RY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBER OCCUPATIONS 2020-2025



2025 MEMBER AGES



## RURAL YOUTH TASMANIA - MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



CLUB MEMBERS	2024	2025
Brighton	20	21
Central Highlands	-	11
Devonport	32	44
Hagley	13	14
Isolated Members	2	5
Kingborough-Huon	15	13
North Motton	28	25
Oatlands	21	16
Sorell	19	19
Tamar	27	29
Tasman	14	19
Westmorland	11	13
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>229</b>

## Young Farmer Report

The 2024 Woolworths Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year Competition again was a tightly contested battle during July and August. A lower number of initial entrants in the Runoffs meant only four competitors missed out on a place in the State Final.

The Runoffs were held on 27th July 2024 at Quercus Park. Eight modules were delivered by a range of industry professionals. The topics were: first aid, wool industry, meat cuts identification, mega quiz, chef taste, finance, weed management, and plumbing. The overall winner of the Runoffs was Chelsea Rayner from Lower Beulah. The race for the coveted title of 2024

Woolworths Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year would prove to be a close one come the State Final. Rounding out the top 10 were: Annalise Rayner, Ashtyn Willey, Charlton Skirving, Chloe Temple, Dylan Bellchambers, Jake Williams, Jordan Burr, Matthew Wadley, and Zac Leonard.

Once again, the State Final day was one not to miss. On

24th August 2024 the 10 State Finalists completed 10 modules throughout the day with the top five competing in the final two modules during the dinner that evening. We were very fortunate to have a high caliber of judges to build and deliver these modules. We introduced new and uncommon modules this year to challenge the entrants in different ways.







## MODULE WINNERS

### **Pesticide Application**

Dylan Bellchambers

### **Work Health & Safety**

Dylan Bellchambers

### **Welding & Fabrication**

Zac Leonard

### **Tractor Safety & Operation**

Matthew Wadley

### **Farm & Forest Mapper**

Dylan Bellchambers

### **Irrigation**

Matthew Wadley

### **Biodiversity**

Dylan Bellchambers

### **Livestock**

Chelsea Rayner

### **Organic Farming**

Zac Leonard

### **Mechanics** – Matthew Wadley

### **Quiz** – Dylan Bellchambers

### **Public Speaking**

Chelsea Rayner



## THE FINAL FIVE PLACINGS

### **First**

Dylan Bellchambers

### **Second**

Zac Leonard

### **Third**

Chelsea Rayner

### **Fourth**

Jake Williams

### **Fifth**

Charlton Skirving



**These finalists shared in over \$40,000 worth of prizes including a brand-new Polaris Ranger side-by-side for the winner.**

# Member Engagement

## Graeme Tole Memorial Award

This award is always tightly contested, and the caliber of nominees is always outstanding, and very difficult to choose between. As the President's Prize it was solely up to the outgoing State President to choose a recipient of this award and for 2024 it was presented to Jake Williams who will travel to New Zealand in 2025 to grow our connections with our young farming neighbours. An excellent choice in ambassador for our organisation.



Graeme Tole Recipient ↑

## Training

Over the past 12 months we have been able to host a range of training courses and opportunities. A large group of members attended a governance training day with Lucy Byrne from Healthy Tasmania in early 2025 to learn good practices of governance that can be used in their club settings. Before Agfest we held a couple of machinery operator's courses for members to further their personal development.

## State Ball 2025 & Member Awards 2024

State Ball was held at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre, New Town in 2025. The event was the

first major occasion organised by the newly reformed Social Committee, and they did a fantastic job with over 80 Rural Youth members in attendance. This statewide event is the perfect opportunity to present the Club and Member Awards for the previous year.

Best New Member Award was presented to Navneet Kaur from the North Motton Club. Joining in August 2024 Navneet quickly jumped at any Rural Youth opportunity presented to her. She participated in the December Launceston Christmas Parade with other members from across the state. She also leaped straight into a Study Tour application and interview opportunity. Her club nominated her for this award due to her outstanding commitment and consistent participation in club activities.

A long-time member Jessica Temple from the Devonport Club was awarded the Most Outstanding Member Award for 2024. Having held many roles



Best New Member ↑

within her club and organisation since joining in 2019, Jess has been a driving force behind many of the activities held by the Devonport Club. Members of her club nominated her for making the club so successful in recent years and increasing member numbers dramatically.

For the second year in a row North Motton Club took out Top

Club honours. They consistently held club meetings and social gatherings throughout the year and remain committed to being involved in their local community.



Top Club ↑

## Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program

Again, this year we were able to offer a place at the week-long Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program in Geelong. This opportunity was presented to Samantha Pyke of the North Motton Club who will take part in this invaluable program later in 2025.



MORLP Recipient ↑

## Rural Youth Scholarship

Rural Youth are always proud to support personal and professional development. This year we offered the Rural Youth Scholarship again to someone undertaking further study at University or TAFE. The 2025 recipient was Jessica Richards who is in her final year of studying physiotherapy.



## Rural Youth Clubs

**Devonport**

Our club has had a fantastic year, we have had many meetings ranging from a meal all together at a local pub to playing bowls.

Our year has been filled with meetings, social and state-wide events which we have welcomed new members and also been able to catch up with other members from around the state.

Going back to the start of the financial year, we had our first meeting which was held at the Forth pub which is always great to sit down all together and enjoy a nice meal. Devonport club had five members participate in the 2024 Woolworths Tasmanian Young Farmer Competition Runoffs in July. They competed in modules ranging from plumbing a water trough to grading meat cuts. From the Runoffs we had all five members become part of the 10 state finalists. The State Final were held on the 24th of August where they all competed hard to win and following the completion of the final modules, they attended the formal dinner that night.

On the 9th of August we had our clubs Bonfire Night held in Kindred by Yuri and Sarah, which was a fun filled night by the massive bonfire. In September, we had a potluck dinner at Craigie's house where everyone brought their favourite dish where we also discussed ordering new merchandise and brainstormed fundraising ideas.

September was a busy month for our club, some of our members attended the Rural Youth AGM where we had a couple of members who were elected for a role on the Rural Youth Board. Also, at the AGM members that had nominated for a Rural Youth Study Tour were announced. From Devonport club we had Ashtyn that had been selected to go on exchange to Northern Ireland/ Scotland and Alex who had also

been selected to go on exchange to Austria.

In October, we held our fundraiser of selling bagged chicken poo, we would also like to thank the Ryan family for generously donating the chicken poo for our club to sell. There was a small group of us who met at Bakers Beach Road to shovel and bag the chicken poo for our orders. We sold a total of 107 bags which meant we raised \$535 for our club. Thank you to all who purchased a bag and to those who helped on the day. On the 22nd we had a meeting at the Devonport Country Club where we enjoyed a meal and played a game of bowls, which did become quite competitive between members.



Our next gathering was our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner which we held at Amber's House; we enjoyed so many different dishes from roast meat to delicious pavlova. It was a great night where members wore Christmas attire and celebrated what had been an amazing year.

January 21st was our first social catch up for the year, where we all caught up at the Bluff Beach with



our tea. Members were able to talk about what they had been up to for the Christmas holidays and a couple of our members even went for a swim!

In February, we had a games night at Amber's House which was super fun and some of us were very competitive. We enjoyed playing cards, spoons and even a game of What Do You Meme. We also created our club's scarecrow "Barney" for the club competition at Agfest!

On March 1st the amazing social committee planned our State Ball which this year was held at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre in Hobart. We had 14 members attend and they all looked great dressed up for a night filled with good times and even a few dance moves. We had our next meeting on the 18th where we caught up at the Lighthouse Hotel and we planned a pie drive as our next fundraiser, and we also voted on a marquee design which was funded from our grant that we received.

In April we had a BYO tea night at Craigie's house where we all caught up to have a look at our new marquee which turned out perfect! We will now be sheltered from the sun and rain at community events with our marquee.



It was a few busy weeks leading up to Agfest, with many of our members spending weekends at Quercus Park attending working bees to prepare site for the event. This year we had Ashtyn as Features Manager, Alex as Security Manager, Sarah as Quercus Taste Coordinator, Holly as the Quercus Taste Assistant, Georgie as Equine Entertainment Coordinator, Lara as Communication and Engagement Coordinator, Jess and Amber in the Features Tent and we also had a few members as general volunteers. Well done to those members for their hard work and dedication over the weeks leading up to and over the days of Agfest. After Agfest we hosted Kirsten who

was an exchangee from Northern Ireland. Kirsten stayed with Amber for a week and some of our members took her to the movies, vineyards, Lake Barrington, horse riding and lots of other places along the Northwest coast. On the last Saturday of May we had the Agfest wrap up meeting and then that night we had the Agfest Dinner where everyone was able to celebrate their hard work and dress up for a great night.

Saturday June 7th, we held our annual Rural Rally, which we planned the route to start at Campbell Town and then the teams would follow the clues around the town to churches and then to find the local stag. They

then headed to Ross where they had to find a few of the tourist destinations in the town including the Female Factory which was very interesting to learn about. They then followed the clues back along the highway stopping at Conara, Epping Forest, Powranna and then back through Longford to then arrive at Quercus Park. The winning team was Caine, Ash, Brooke and Will who managed to get back first out of the three teams and nearly all the questions right! That night Craigie held a Steak and Parmi night which was the perfect way to end the night.

This year we have had lots of meetings from a pub meal to a fun game of competitive bowls. This year we reached over 40 members which is honestly amazing, and our gatherings are always filled with laughter and good times. We can't wait to see where this next membership year takes our club and hope to keep making fun memories together along the way!



## Rural Youth Clubs

**North Motton**

Another 12 months has flown by, full of activities for our busy members!

Kicking off with the Agfest Annual Meeting held in July 2024, this saw our two members Hayden Richardson as nonvoting member and Dylan Bellchambers as Agfest chairmen voted onto the Leadership Team respectively.

The Tasmanian Young Farmer Competition runoffs were held in July 2024 - this saw some of our members compete for a spot in the finals. Congratulations on Jake and Dylan on making into the finals and well done to Dylan who won!!

Fundraising and community involvement have been a standout aspect of our club's efforts over the past 12 months. Among our highlights were hosting the popular Dog High Jump at the Circular Head Show in November 2024 and running our much-loved annual Christmas raffle, which continues to be a crowd favourite.

We sincerely thank everyone who has donated & supported these initiatives, your contributions not only sustain our club but also empower us to give back to the community in meaningful ways.

Our club takes great pride in supporting fellow clubs and participating in events throughout the state and across the wider Rural Youth Organisation. This year, we were fortunate to be part of several memorable occasions, including the Young Farmer Dinner, Devonport's Rural Rally, the always enjoyable Agfest Dinner, and the spectacular Rural Youth State Ball held at the Hobart Hockey Centre on March 4th. The State Ball was a particularly special night for North Motton, with several well-deserved recognitions coming our way. Congratulations to Navneet Kaur, who was named Best New



Member, and Sam Pyke, who was awarded the prestigious Marcus Oldham Scholarship. To top it all off, our club was honoured to receive the Top Club award once again, a true testament to the dedication, passion, and hard work of our members. These achievements reflect not only the effort put in within our club but also the positive impact we strive to make in our local community. Thank you to every member who contributes their time and energy to making our club, and the broader Rural Youth Organisation, something we can all be proud of.

Agfest is a huge part of our club, and over the past 12 months our members have put a lot of time in attending Committee Meetings, Working Bees and the big Field Day itself. We would like to congratulate and thank all the members who helped to organise and run Agfest. We are proud of all our members who were involved: Dylan Bellchambers – Chairperson, Hayden Richardson, Safety and Compliance Manager, Daniel Gladwell – Waste Management Coordinator, Sam Pyke- Equine exhibitor Coordinator, Cheyenne Turner- 4Wheel Drive and Heritage Assistant, Billy Popowski, Patrick Correy, Samara Correy, Samantha Elphinstone, Jessica Elphinstone, as general volunteers.







Following Agfest, North Motton had an action-packed fortnight with two international exchangees - Carla from New Zealand, who stayed for one week, and Kirsten from Northern Ireland, who joined us for two weeks. We were fortunate to have both guests stay with the same host family, allowing them to form a close bond during their time here. Their adventures began the day after Agfest with a trip to the West Coast—an experience Carla especially loved, as it ticked off another Queenstown from her travel list (having already visited two of the four! Now only one to go). Throughout their stay, they enjoyed a variety of exciting and adventurous activities, such as site seeing across the Coast, Farm

tours/ being guided through what we do on our farms. They also experienced horse riding and a one-hour flight each in a small two seater plan, over the Northwest Coast. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our club members, a heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who generously gave their time to showcase the beauty and spirit of the North-West to our visitors. We thank those who opened their homes to host it's a rewarding and memorable experience, and we encourage more members to get involved in future exchange opportunities!

Amidst all the other exciting happenings, our club has continued to enjoy its regular monthly catchups—alternating

between meetings and activities. Over the past 12 months, we have made a conscious effort to keep things fresh and fun, with events ranging from classic potlucks and pub dinners to lawn bowls, indoor bowls, and lively games nights. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our outgoing Office Bearers: Sam Pyke – President, Daniel Gladwell – Vice President, Cheyenne Turner – Treasurer, and Hayden Richardson – Secretary.

Your dedication and hard work have played a key role in the continued success of our club. A warm welcome and best wishes to our incoming Office Bearers: Daniel Gladwell – President, Caitlin Johnston – Vice President, Cheyenne Turner – Treasurer, and Samantha Elphinstone – Secretary. We are excited to see what the next 12 months will bring under their leadership, and what is planned for our club going forward.

We farewell Ethan & Jake Williams, as this was their last year as members, wishing them all the best in their future & hope the skills they have learnt and gained during their years as members helps them in their chosen careers.





## Rural Youth Clubs

**Oatlands**

What a year! Our club attended various events around the state helping out other clubs and we held a few of our own.

At the start of last membership year we had the pleasure of hanging out with some pretty cool exchangees - we took Andy, Siril and Tara up to Mt Wellington/ kunanyi for a walk to the top where Will Iles showed that he does in fact have a bit of mountain goat in him showing his climbing skills to the group. We parked cars at Woodsdale footy clubs annual cracker night, we also took entries for the night, saw some great fireworks and had some yarns with the locals. Our members got all dolled up to attend the Young Farmer dinner. We got dressed up in some very spooky costumes (I was a pumpkin) and handed out lollies to the community. We held a BBQ at our town's annual garage sale, cooking up a storm for those looking at stalls. We participated in our town's Christmas parade where we dressed up as police and prisoners and handed out lollies

to the town. We held a ute comp at Woodsdale's family fun day which was a great opportunity to get amongst our community and chat about Rural Youth and what we do. Our members looked absolutely fabulous and headed into Hobart to attend State Ball. We held a Ute comp at the Campbell Town Show which was a great success - thank you to Tamar and Sorell for coming out for a great day and giving us a hand. We all rolled up our sleeves and spent an evening building a scarecrow for the Agfest club comp which we took the honour of winning this year, the guys had a bit of fun with our beloved scarecrow after we left him in the hands of Amber. Huge thanks to Renae's dad David for helping us with the construction of our scarecrow! A huge chunk of our members attended Agfest this year which was great to see. We held a social night at the Evolo Escape



rooms in Moonah, where we had a mix of clubs attend - go yellow team! We purchased a fridge and a BBQ for our club/clubrooms thanks to Jane Howlett. It was a very successful year for Oatlands I cant wait to see what's to come!



## Rural Youth Clubs

**Brighton**

2024 saw Brighton have their highest number of members in quite a few years with 22 members.

We went to the golfing range and laser tag as a club. We bagged some sheep poo at a member's farm for the club to sell. We attended the Brighton Show again where we ran a dog high jump competition and Ute competition. In December we held a Secret Santa with a potluck dinner, which saw some interesting wrapping styles and presents. We also designed our first item of merchandise which our members love wearing when out and about.

2025 started with barefoot bowls. We attended the Bushy Park Show in February where we ran another dog high jump competition and Ute competition with some Central Highlands members. In March many of our members attended Rural Youth State Ball in Hobart. As a club we built our scarecrow for display at Agfest and did some maintenance work on our dog high jump which we had purchased. Also in May we hosted Kirsten from Northern Ireland and took her for a pub meal and a round of bowling. In June we held our club AGM and saw some old and new faces elected as our office bearers for 2025/2026.



## Rural Youth Clubs

**Central Highlands**

Central Highlands have had a great start with getting the club up and running again!

Since January 2025 we have gained new members, held our first event, being the Hamilton Show Ute competition, and had many great meetings and dinners together. We also attended our first State Ball as a club! This was great to see some new members in attendance. Our members have started forming great friendships both inside and outside of the club, which is really bringing great vibes to our meetings. Our club can't wait to see what this first full club membership year will bring us!

## Rural Youth Clubs

**Tasman Club**

This year we held multiple sausage sizzles at local events, we soon raised plenty of money and purchased new club jumpers for our team.

We have been working closely alongside the Tasman CWA, when the CWA hosts an event they invite us along to hold a BBQ. It's been so lovely to connect our club with the lovely CWA ladies. Our club has grown to 19 members, we are so excited to watch our club grow. This year we also raised money by bagging sheep manure supplied by our member, Dain. The days spent bagging manure are always finished off with a BBQ and a meeting in the shed.

We have held a beach-rubbish pickup, removing rubbish from local beaches for a happier environment. We have had the pleasure of hosting international exchanges from both Northern Ireland and Austria, we thoroughly enjoyed giving them unforgettable experiences on the Tasman Peninsula, making lifelong friends. Six of our members volunteered at Agfest 2025, two of those members taking on committee roles. It's been a great year of smashing goals and we are very excited for our clubs continuing growth.



## Rural Youth Clubs

# Kingborough-Huon

The 2024/25 year has been a huge year of growth, development, and most importantly fun for Kingborough-Huon Rural Youth.

It has been a very busy year - from the Huon Agricultural Show, Agfest and our newest event at the Bruny Island Easter Carnival with our dog high jump.

A special mention to the club office bearers for 2024/25 - your hard work and dedication to the club is greatly appreciated. Thank you to you all!

The club has grown tremendously over the last year, and I could not be more proud. We started off the year strong with great participation at the Huon Agricultural Show with our most popular event, the dog high jump. We also ran a raffle, animal nursery, and Ute competition. You should all be so proud of yourselves for the things you have achieved over the last year. I look forward to the things the club will achieve over the next year.



The clubs support of our annual sheep poo bagging, show raffling, and fundraising efforts have brought comforts to the clubs' financial position. These efforts mean that the club is able to provide subsidised events and dinners to our members over the duration of the year for all to enjoy.

I look forward to watching and supporting the club grow stronger over the next 12 months.



## Rural Youth Clubs

# Sorell

Over the past 12 months, Sorell Rural Youth has gone from strength to strength and our club has truly flourished!

We've thrown ourselves into a huge range of activities, from helping out at the Runnymede Rodeo, rolling up our sleeves at working bees, and of course coming together for the big one, Agfest. These events not only showcased the dedication and energy of our members but also strengthened the bonds within our club and with the wider community. Membership has remained strong, with plenty of new faces adding to our energy, enthusiasm, and cheeky banter along the way. The past year has been filled with hard work, teamwork, laughter, and achievements that we're proud to look back on. With such a solid foundation and a motivated membership, the future is looking incredibly exciting for the Sorell Club and we can't wait to see just how much more we can grow, achieve, and celebrate together in the year ahead!

## Rural Youth Clubs

**Hagley**

Hagley Rural Youth has had a great year!

Our club has been buzzing with activity, from organising Rural Rumble and social catchups to community events and regional shows. This year we have kept the club spirit strong, welcoming new faces and keeping our members engaged. It has been great to see everyone pitching in, having a laugh, and making the most of what Rural Youth has to offer.

Our event Rural Rumble was a huge success, not only raising money for the club but also giving us the chance to connect with the local community and provide a fun night for all!



## Rural Youth Clubs

**Tamar**

There have been some major changes to all our clubs with changing over our positions and Tamar would like to say a big congratulations to everyone who got a role.

Tamar have been quite busy organising different events with our dog high jump at Campbell town show, Scottsdale Show, and Exeter show grounds. As well as 4 days at TCTA state carnival over the Australian day weekend. It was also so great to see 11+ members volunteer at Agfest. We have also hosted the Show 'n' Shine at Rural Rumble, which was absolutely amazing. We are so excited to see what the future brings us.





## Rural Youth Clubs

# Past Member Association

The RY Past Members have had several group gatherings during the past year.

In September a group of 40+ were hosted by Devonport Club past member, farmer and entrepreneur wine producer, Robert Nichols and his wife Sue, at their Eastford Creek vineyard and winery.

A very enjoyable tasting session in the glorious afternoon sun was followed by a tour of the vineyard and hospitality complex. Fair to say many of our attendees left with more than they came with (to enjoy later!!).

An evening dinner followed at the Devonport Country Club where tales of years gone by were reminisced by the members from all corners of the state.

A brief AGM meeting was held to elect office bearers for the Association - Noel Beven was

re-elected as Chair; Jan Horton as Secretary and David Young and John Dent as Treasurers.

Agfest '25 again saw our annual afternoon tea gathering on the deck in pleasant weather. We welcomed several new past members and the catch up by the 25 or so present.

This event is most convenient for a short catch up being as so many of us usually visit Agfest.

Unfortunately, we acknowledge the loss of Robert Morey, in a tragic farm accident in June.

Robert was a past Sorell Club member, a NZ exchangee and State President (1973). He is survived by his wife Helen Brock, a past West Tamar club member.

A memorial afternoon tea was held on July 13 attended by 100+ people from various other groups Robert was involved with. His contributions and spirit were fondly remembered.

I wish to congratulate the Rural Youth Organisation and the Agfest Committee for the continued success of Agfest. 2025 was another outstanding achievement following the difficulties posed during and post the Covid era.

Looking ahead, the Association aims to engage more recent past members to ensure the continuation of friendships and connections

One of the focuses of Past Members in coming years will be to invite more recent past members to join the group activities to ensure the friendships and connections continue.





# STUDY TOURS

2024/2025 saw the return of our outgoing Study Tour program since COVID-19 disrupted travel plans for a number of years.



Amber and Alex ↑



Amber and Ashtyn ↑



Amber and Hayden ↑

We were able to offer our Self-Nominated, Young Endeavour and four international destinations. We received 10 applications from excited members and from these 10 we were very eager to send five members on trips. It had been a long five years since we sent members abroad, so we are glad to be able to return to this exciting opportunity.

We contributed towards Sean Schofield's self-nominated tour of his choosing which was the Young Dairy Network International Ireland Tour which took place in June 2025.

Hayden Richardson was awarded a three-week Study Tour to New Zealand in early 2025. He spent the trip in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty area with members of New Zealand Young Farmers. In return we hosted Carla from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty area for two weeks around Agfest, who said "I was made to feel part of the team from the start. This has been an incredible experience."

Later in 2025 we sent Ashtyn Willey to Northern Ireland and Scotland for eight weeks, Matthew Wadley to Switzerland for eight weeks, and Alex Robins to Austria for six weeks. You can read about all the member's trips on our website under Activities and Opportunities "Study Tours".

We cannot send members abroad without being host to affiliated organisations across the globe and this year along with Carla from New Zealand, we

welcomed Kirsten from Northern Ireland for six weeks beginning at Agfest and bouncing around most of our clubs throughout the state. We also welcome Hannah from Austria later in the year.

We sincerely thank Salters Hire and Rabo Bank for their contributions towards this program and making these Study Tours possible for our members. We are looking forward to another successful program in 2025/2026.



# SOCIAL COMMITTEE

What a year it has been for the Social Committee!

After a bit of a break, we came back stronger than ever with a fresh focus on fun and good vibes all around. This year was all about getting people together, celebrating our wins, and making great memories along the way.

We kicked things off in style with State Ball at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre in New Town. With 83 members dressed to impress, it was a night full of laughter, music and well-deserved recognition.

A huge shoutout to our award winners for Best New Member, Most Outstanding Member, Top Club, and the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program Award.

In April, we kept the fun rolling with a festive Easter celebration, complete with a classic egg hunt and a hilarious round of musical trivia after a working bee. Let's just say, our members know their music and aren't afraid to belt out a tune or two; some real hidden

talents were uncovered.

By the time May rolled around, it was time to relax with our Agfest Dinner, a night to kick back, share a meal and celebrate all the hard work that went into making Agfest 2025 a roaring success; great food, great company, and plenty of laughs made it one to remember, but we didn't stop there. Throughout the year, we had casual catchups to keep the good times flowing from steak and parmi nights to jacket potato and trivia in the evening, these low-key events were perfect for reconnecting and welcoming new faces.

A massive thank you to our amazing members on the Social Committee, your commitment made every event feel special. You have helped turn our calendar into something our members really look forward to. Here's to even more fun, friendships, and fantastic events in the year ahead we can't wait to see what's next!





INCOME	2023-2024	2024-2025
Rural Youth	\$145,333	\$161,201
Agfest	\$1,567,097	\$1,722,618
Property Management	\$138,475	\$128,113
Sponsorship	\$347,754	\$518,631
Gov't Funding	\$0	\$12,667
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,198,659</b>	<b>\$2,543,230</b>
EXPENDITURE	2023-2024	2024-2025
Administration	\$706,662	\$751,938
Membership	\$67,973	\$83,379
Property Expenses	\$335,528	\$366,410
Agfest Expenses	\$670,970	\$669,893
Donations	\$66,279	\$7,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$1,847,412</b>	<b>\$1,878,620</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$351,247</b>	<b>\$664,610</b>

What another big, busy year it has been for the organisation and our members.

Due to the need for a large capital investment on site and ever-increasing operating costs we began the year with a challenging budget. The Board had a strong focus on prioritising member amenities and benefits. An updated ablution block was purchased in July and we secured discounted fuel through sponsorship with Tas Petroleum.

Severe storms in September wrought havoc on site, with the most notable damage being a tree falling on the Tullah accommodation building and surrounding fencing. Unfortunately, due to a combination of lack of contractors to provide and deliver reports, the presence of asbestos and a lack of urgency from our insurers this claim will not be finalised until the 25 – 26 financial year.

Further adjustments were made to the plans for our Quercus Park Head Office to meet the allocated budget and a contractor appointed. Two progress payments for the build represent the most significant capital expenditure for the year, with completion scheduled for December. In addition, the organisation has committed to upgrading the Fire Safety System and has expended over \$42k to date developing a suitable solution. This will be a major expense in the coming financial year, estimates between \$500-

\$600k, and we were heartened to receive bipartisan support from both major parties prior to the recent Tasmanian election. In February we were also grateful to receive a grant from the State Government allowing us to increase the number of wheelchair accessible picnic tables for use both at Agfest and other events.

We continue to investigate options to reduce our operating costs through strategic partnerships and tight fiscal control. The construction of the Civil Contractors Academy in the paddock behind East Car Park is an example of this. The Tasmanian Government has pledged \$4.3million to develop the academy, Quercus Park will be used as a 'live site' for training, reducing our costs for road and drain maintenance. Construction will commence in late 2025.

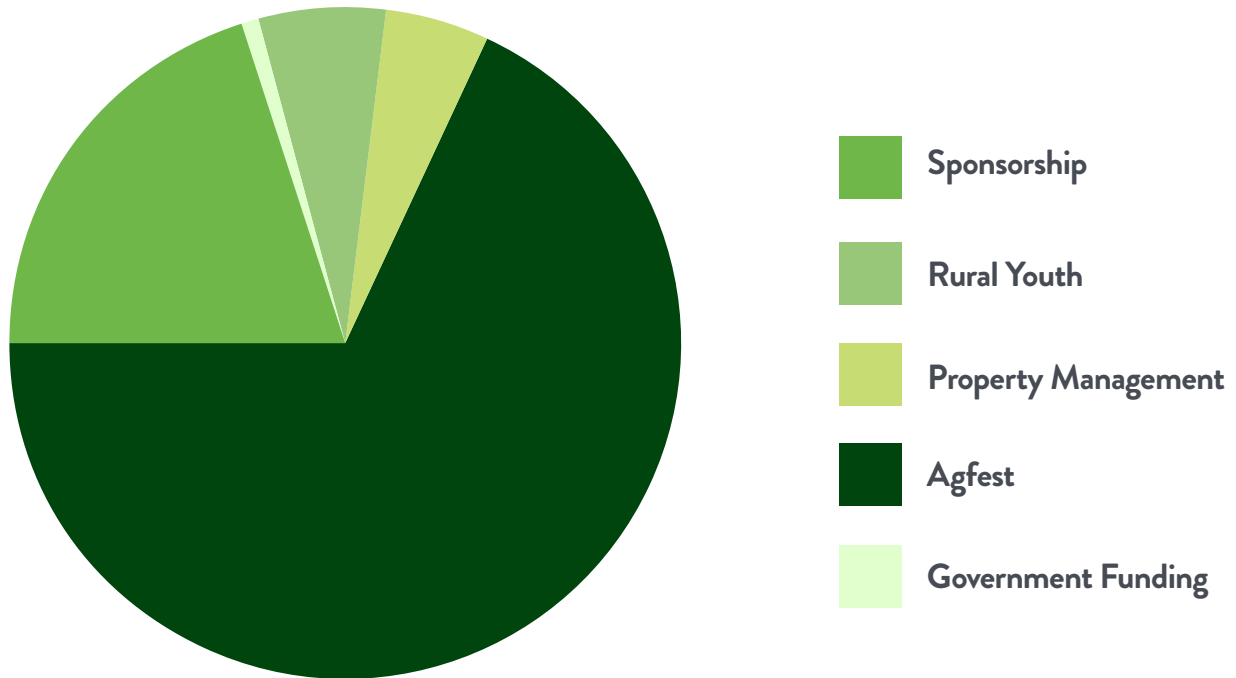
As always, we are eternally grateful for the continued support from our wonderful sponsors, their support enables us to deliver on our mission to connect, develop and celebrate young Tasmanians.

The financial year ended with a nett result of \$664,610 which is very pleasing, this will enable us to deliver on our identified goals for the coming year. A complete set of audited financial statements is available from the organisation upon request.

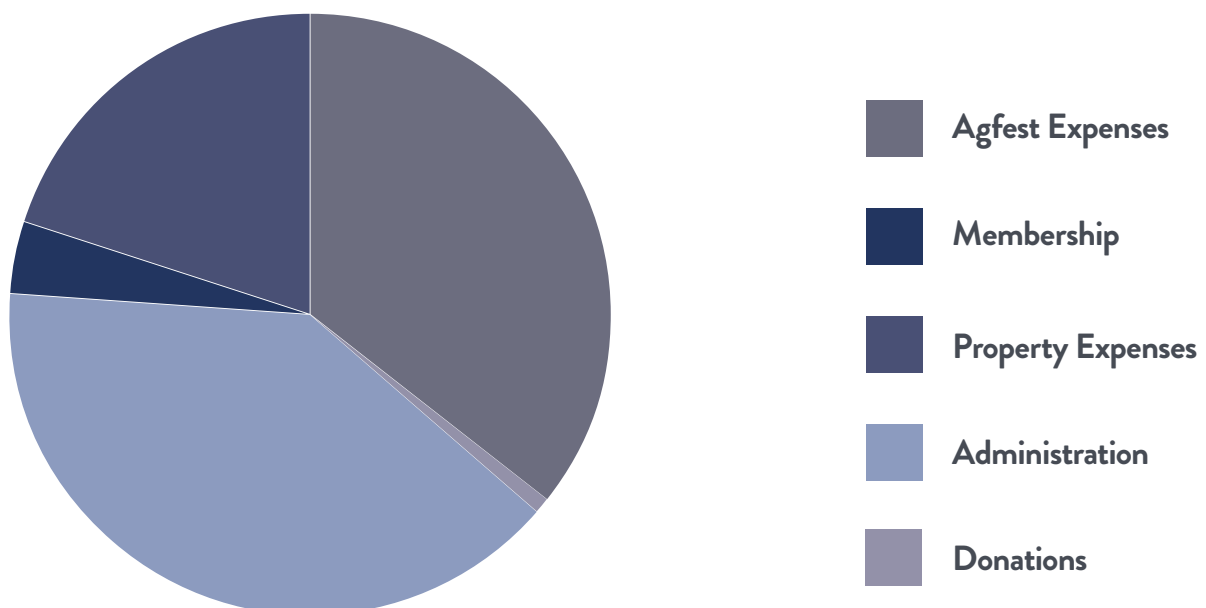
**LINDA PERKINS**

Operations & Finance Manager

## SOURCE OF INCOME 2024-25



## AREAS OF EXPENDITURE 2024-25



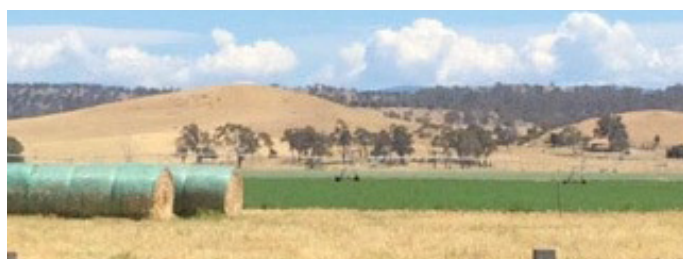


The 2024–25 financial year has underscored the importance of strong, localised support services across Tasmania’s rural and regional landscapes.

At Rural Business Tasmania (RBT), we remain a dedicated and responsive partner for individuals, families, and communities seeking practical support and guidance. Our adaptability and leadership across drought relief, financial counselling, and regional development continue to have a tangible impact.

In another year marked by challenge and change, Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) has continued to stand alongside Tasmania’s rural and regional communities, delivering independent, professional services that support business resilience and financial sustainability.

Through a growing portfolio of programs, training initiatives, and advisory services, we continue to build regional capacity, adaptability, and wellbeing.



### Responding to Drought:

A major focus in 2024–25 was supporting farming families impacted by Tasmania’s extreme seasonal conditions.

- Through the Rural Relief Fund, we distributed over \$800,000 in direct grants to households experiencing severe drought-related hardship—providing urgent assistance for essential household needs and animal welfare. We extend our sincere thanks to the Tasmanian Government for its strong and ongoing support of this vital program.
- During this extended and challenging dry season, our recovery team worked alongside other key stakeholders—including the Tasmanian Farm Innovation Hub, TasFarmers, Rural Alive and Well, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) to provide on-the-ground support in the hardest-hit regions, particularly the Central Highlands and King Island.
- We were also pleased to commence a new initiative, the Farm Advisory Support Service, funded through the Tasmanian Government’s drought assistance measures. This program provides triage-style support, guidance on grant eligibility, and referrals for all farming businesses in Tasmania.

### New Initiatives and Expanded Reach

We delivered several initiatives this year with a strong emphasis on community education, volunteering, and drought preparedness. These included a suite of programs under the Community Impact

Program (CIP) : (Supported by the Australian Government)

- Lead Partner - Northern Tasmania
- Tas Local Communities Volunteer Projects – North and South
- CIP Tasmanian Small Business Council’s Small Business Resilience Project

We also participated in the Tasmanian Business Advice Service (TBAS) and the New Business Support (NBS) Pilot Program, delivering free, confidential advice across three of Tasmania’s four regions. a free and independent business advice service funded by the Tasmanian Government.

Training and Capacity Building Programs included:

- Ag-Up eNable Program (Supported by the Australian Government)
- RBT Mentorship Program (Supported by Tasmanian Government)

### Our Legacy and Core Services

Founded in 1986 by Rural Youth Tasmania, RBT is now a fully independent organisation with 13 staff and responsibility for 10 funded programs.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) remains our cornerstone, assisting over 110 farming businesses this year. We’re pleased the program is funded through to 30 June 2027.

### Leadership and Collaboration

We convene and chair the Forum of Rural Stakeholders, which expanded again this year. We also align closely with the Future Drought Fund, helping clients manage climate-related risks and build resilient enterprises. We are represented as members of:

- Tasmanian Farm Innovation Hub – Advisory Board
- Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture – Advisory Board
- Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group – Board
- Tasmanian Small Business Council – Board
- Potatoes Tasmania – Board
- Safe Farming Reference Group
- Tasmanian Recovery Network
- Northern Region Emergency Management Committee
- COSBOA – Member

### Looking Ahead

We acknowledge the ongoing in-kind support from Rural Youth Tasmania and Director Karen Robinson representing Rural Youth Tasmania and thank all partners and supporters. We remain committed to supporting Tasmania’s rural communities through practical services, strong partnerships, and a lasting commitment to resilience, independence, and opportunity.

## DIAMOND SPONSORS



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