



PO BOX 322  
Launceston  
Tasmania. 7250  
email: info@twia.org.au

#### What's Inside?

- East Coast State meeting a Success.
- Executive Planning Report
- Quad bike safety
- TasTafe Training
- Forward Planner. AGM Feb 2014

October, 2013

# THE BLUEGUM

## President's Report

With the end of the year bearing down on us, we're all shifting into that speed we know so well – top! Farmers across the state have been deluged by flooding and battered by high winds, making for a very challenging season. There's plenty of green but not so much growth as the cold hangs around. Ah, the joys of rural life! - the challenges always keep us on our toes but we can always be thankful that we don't have it as bad as someone else – spare a thought for our far northern neighbours experiencing increasingly severe drought and NSW with its terrible bushfires!

TWiA, like everyone, is not immune from its share of challenges.

With all hands needed on all farm decks, it's a bit trickier to organise events and activities at this time of the year. So if you can possibly make it to an organised event, please try to do so. Your attendance will put a smile on the faces of others who have quite likely had to make extra effort just to make it happen in the first place. See details below for the State Christmas Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Recently the Executive Committee held its annual strategic planning meeting, again ably led by Ella Dixon. Thank you, Ella. We are well on track to meet our mid and longer term goals, with all-round consensus that re-structuring of the executive has made for far smoother, calmer management.

With the AGM and 2014 elections coming up in February we are once again seeking nominations for new committee members. Aside from making a great contribution to Tasmanian rural women in general, committee membership also provides many personal benefits, including opportunities to learn new skills, work with representatives from different sectors of the community and contribute to lively and stimulating discussion on a range of topics, all in a safe and friendly environment. All positions are up for nomination and are all for one term.

### State Meeting:

Friday, 29th November, 2013

10.30am @ Bush Inn Hotel, Deloraine.

Followed by **Christmas Lunch @ \$25.00ph at Noon.**

**Santa will visit. Please bring Hand Made gift.**

RSVP by Fri. 22nd November

to: Deb Morice: 0408 990 927

Joan Field Ph: 64972141

## TASMANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE – EAST COAST STATE MEETING

With the sun out and fruit trees in blossom Cerise Brook Orchard and Golf Course provided a pleasant venue for the Break O Day branch to host a State Meeting of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Women of all ages from a variety of rural backgrounds attended, some coming from as far as Westbury and Deloraine.

Morning tea and a talk by Christine Fogarty of Cerise Brook about her experience of being a Sydney escapee now running an orchard and golf course in St Helens kicked off the day.

Rosie Mackinnon, TWiA vice chairman, provided some background about the group's beginnings and current goals. Formed 20 years ago in Scottsdale, TWiA "connects, supports and celebrates Tasmanian rural women" through a range of activities in regional groups around the state. Inducted into the 2013 Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll, the group holds gatherings and workshops, and provides enabling scholarships.

Mhari Tucker then spoke about what inspired her to start a local Break O Day group which was formed a year ago and is steadily gathering momentum. Primary production in the Break O Day encompasses horticulture, aquaculture and tourism, all of which were on show, giving attendees an appreciation of the area's unique nature. A barbeque lunch featured some fabulous local fare including meat cooked to perfection by Tara Nicklason from Pyengana Meats, oysters from Lease 65, Leavenbank bread and a presentation and cheese tasting by Ian Fowler, a new boutique cheese maker in the area. A visit to Lease 65 followed, where Jackie and Anthony Blunt and partner Craig Lockwood provided a fascinating and informative tour of the lease and processing plant, including a brief outing on the water to view oysters in action! Their professionalism and attention to detail made it easy to understand why their juicy, plump oysters won a 2012 Royal Sydney Fine Food Award.

Last stop for the day was Antu Angus at the Gardens where Mhari Tucker impressed with a home baked afternoon tea worthy of Masterchef. She and husband John explained the business of running their property and their sophisticated Angus stud breeding programme, a true family farming enterprise! Many new friendships were made and much was learned about the modern approach to primary production in the Break O'Day municipality. Tasmanian Women in Agriculture meet every six to eight weeks and welcome women from all walks of life with an interest in agriculture or primary production. Contact Mhari Tucker on [mhari.tucker@ipstarmail.com.au](mailto:mhari.tucker@ipstarmail.com.au), 63768191 or 0417121585.



Sampling Fowler's Cheeses



Oyster Farm Tour

A very appreciative audience!



Local produce for Lunch



Maureen Cameron & Anne McCormack get a close up view of the Oysters from Jackie while on Tour.



## DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

### QUAMBY GROUP:

#### “Concentration & Fun”

Quamby members enjoying Movement to Music at their last Meeting.



A wonderful evening on fun and laughter had by all attending.



### RUBICON GROUP

This month on Monday 21st, we will be visiting Ellis and Lorna Dick's to see what is involved in preparation of show chickens at 10.00 am. This will be followed by a tour of Blokkers flowers at 11.30 and then onto Lunch at the Cherry Shed at p.m..

#### Quotes taken from letters to TWIA Editor on the East Coast State Meeting

I was collected from my home for a night away, (which is unusual for me) and was driven to St Helens along the Fingal Valley which was a green as I had ever seen it. The morning of the TWIA meeting was warm & sunny and seemed to set the tone for the day. Christine Fogarty's talk on her life after Sydney was excellent and I kept thinking how different it must be for her. Listening to Rosie McKinnon speak on 20 years of TWIA took us back to our past and the changes that have occurred. All our tours were great and lunch was beautifully cooked and presented. I didn't taste the oysters, but gained new information about them. Afternoon was very special and the "country style" afternoon tea topped off a wonderful day. Congratulations to all who presented this day for TWIA women.  
*Shirley Wise, Meander Valley Group.*

What a wonderful 2 days we had, with the local members of the East Coast group welcoming us so warmly. Many were younger members who have a keen interest in Agriculture, so if they are a sample of our young rural women, it all looks very hopeful for future of TWIA.

Our tour of the Cerise Brook Orchard was great & I would love to return when the fruit is ready for harvest. The Fowler's Cheese tasting was fun and delicious. This English cheese maker allowed us to purchase some of his produce to take home with us.

The aroma of BBQ lured us to the Pyengana Meats luncheon where we were treated with steaks, sausages, oysters, salads & a variety of local breads. The boat trip and Oyster farm were very interesting especially hearing how they are marketed.

Our day concluded at Tucker's Angus Stud, with more delicious food and an interesting presentation by Mhari & John Tucker on their enterprise.

### MEANDER VALLEY NEWS:

Members have now completed their First Aid refresher course and over 30 women are re-accredited. Our thanks to Deloraine & Districts Community Bank for their continued support of the MV Group. We have also had a member of the Rural Fire Service speak to us and suggest ways to protect ourselves and our property from fire. A DVD night of Maureen & Bev's visit to Madam Tussards Waxwork Factory in Sydney has also been held. Our last meeting was our two Marcus Oldham winners for 2013, Deb Morice & Stephanie Paterson, presenting a film of the speeches they presented at the Marcus Oldham College and their views of the week long course. Congratulations to these young women and we encourage all members to think

cont:

Congratulations to East Coast members on showcasing their local produce & enterprises. "The Tas. Tourism industry could take a leaf out of your book". Our thanks & appreciation go to the East Coast branch for the work & effort put into this day. Well done. *Maureen Cameron & Anne McCormack, Meander Valley Group*

## **Extract of President's Report from Executive Planning Meeting 14 October 2013**

We made a good start to 2013 year with some significant changes to our constitution at the AGM, allowing more flexibility and greater support for the executive. These changes were made in recognition of the changing nature of membership and the growing complexity of women's workloads. Then happily at the AGM we had more nominations than there were positions, necessitating a vote for positions.

We have built up procedural processes and this year have reached a point where we have been able to focus on allocating specific responsibilities to committee members, thus removing a lot of pressure across the board.

2013 saw our induction onto the Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll. A number of us enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the ceremony at Launceston Casino. This was followed some time later by a celebratory luncheon in Ulverstone, with guest speaker Jan Bonde.

We have had good turn ups at other state events, including the last highly successful State Meeting, hosted by Break O' Day group.

Greater emphasis has been placed on our local groups and a name change to "Regional Groups" has been made to reflect the diverse nature of those groups.

Unfortunately we have still not achieved that expansion southwards although work in other areas has been done down south to build connections, notably the networking and practical support that has flowed from the Dunalley bushfires.

Rhonda and Janine have done a lot of work in re-vamping our membership database.

Carol has done a beautiful job of a now-very workable and readable and up to date website.

We now have a facebook page with over 100 followers.

We have successfully continued with our major projects – MORLP and Science Challenge.

We now have clear procedural pathways for most aspects of our business.

Carol has been working on a draft policy for providing small grants to members.

Jo has been working with Neville Bowden from TAFE on securing funding for practical skills acquisition for members.

A number of us were active and vocal participants at the National Rural Women's Coalition forum in Canberra in March, that gave us a direct line of communication to Federal Government. We have been asked on a number of occasions to make comment on government procedure and policy direction, we have been invited into partnerships, we have been visible (eg. through Agfest), we have been heard (via radio), read (via newsprint).

### *Opportunities*

I see the future of TWiA as a channel for education, bridge-building and awareness-building. This is a role that women do very well and I believe that a 1000 strong group of rural women could make a big impression.

### *Challenges*

A shortfall of funding opportunities. This comes down to time and human resources.

Time - to step ahead to make major contributions in some areas where we would like to.

Attracting southern women – this continues to be a big issue for us. We are trying to do things to make it happen, such as allocating a Regional Group to each member, whether the group exists or not, in an effort to bring some focus from a distance.

Skills –With a membership of almost 1000, you would think we must have suitably equipped members to take on almost any role or task but how do we access them more effectively?

Leadership and succession planning – regretfully, I will not be standing for chair or any committee position next year due to personal and family circumstances. I don't believe I am the only one who will be stepping away from the leadership role, leaving positions to be filled.

## **SUPPORT FOR C.P.D.s ON QUAD BIKES : by Belinda Hazell**

Safe Work Australia, Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety (AgHealth) and Country Women's Association of Australia (CWAA) have joined together to support the fitting of crush protection devices (CPDs) to quad bikes before more deaths and serious injuries occur.

Meeting recently as part of National Farm Safety Week they called on manufacturers to urgently reconsider their position on the fitting of CPDs to quad bikes to reduce the likelihood of death and injury as a result of a crush or asphyxiation when quad bikes roll.

Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia, Mr Rex Hoy said 11 quad bike users have already been killed this year. "Numbers alone do not begin to convey the pain and suffering involved in these incidents. However they do indicate there is something inherently very dangerous about quad bikes in agricultural use, farm riding and leisure use," said Mr Hoy.

Mid-year figures released earlier this month by AgHealth in their Farm Injury Report Mid-Year Snapshot continue to show quad bike incidents as the leading cause of death and injury on Australian farms. "Clearly existing quad bike standards are not adequate," said Mr Hoy.

"How many more lives need to be lost before manufacturers finally take action?"

Recognising the immediate need for safety improvement the CWAA established a national policy in 2012 for all quad bikes locally made or imported and used in Australia be fitted with suitably tested CPDs.

AgHealth continues to lead and collaborate with academics on research to improve quad bike safety and reduce the number of injuries and deaths.

"I commend the continuing efforts of CWAA and AgHealth in taking action to improve quad bike safety and keep Australian farmers and their families safe," said Mr Hoy.

"These organisations frequently witness hands-on the detrimental impact a death or serious injury has not only the farmer's family but the whole community.

"It is time manufacturers took action and listened to Australian research and the community. Safe Work Australia will continue to work with farmers, unions, manufacturers, community organisations and regulators to improve quad bike safety and reduce these tragic statistics. More information on the work being done to improve quad bike safety can be found at [www.swa.gov.au](http://www.swa.gov.au).

### **ENDS**

#### **Media contacts**

#### **Safe Work Australia**

Danielle Kuhn

Phone: 0434 664 294

Email: [mediaenquiries@swa.gov.au](mailto:mediaenquiries@swa.gov.au) or **Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety**

Dr Tony Lower, Director Phone: 02 6752 8210

#### **Country Women's Assoc. of Aust.**

**Mrs Noela MacLoed**

**National President**

Ph: 0438 378 794

Email: [Narnol2005@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Narnol2005@yahoo.com.au)

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (followed by State Meeting)**

**10am – 2pm Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Longford (Venue TBA)**

Contact Rhonda Spencer for details Ph: 0438 358 432 - [tottlehill@bigpond.com](mailto:tottlehill@bigpond.com) )

### **Seeking Nominations for Executive Committee - Why would I nominate?**

A good opportunity to work closely with an enthusiastic and motivating group of women who are passionate about the importance of connecting , supporting and celebrating other rural women

Safe, friendly and welcoming environment, where learning and skills building are seen as part of the process. Good way to build confidence....

Good opportunity to network with a wide range of individuals and industries

As a committee member you would be expected to attend (may be via phone) 4 — 5 executive meetings per year and take on (under a mentor) an area of responsibility that suits your interests and skills. Positions are for a one year term. We are especially seeking representation from the South of the State.

For further information contact the President, Annette Reed (0438 009 522)  
or Vice President, Rosie Mackinnon (0408 922 601).

## Tas TAFE Training

*Hi All,*

*We are looking at do some training. Please do survey on line for us to help work out if it is viable or not to proceed . It won't take long at all .*

*Please take the time to do it,*

*TasTAFE have been in discussion with several members of the Committee of TWiA about possible training that may be delivered specifically to their members.*

*The plan is to seek funding from the state government (Skills Tasmania) to cover 90% of the costs of this training. In order to be successful in this, TAFE needs to be quite accurate with the numbers of members taking on training, as well as what areas of training and in what regions.*

*Some of the training may be quite localised, down to being delivered on a member's property should circumstances permit. In order to assess general interest levels,*

*TasTAFE have set up an online survey that you are invited to complete. It is estimated that it will take about 5 minutes. The link for the survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CW5WHFJ>*

*Thank you. Rhonda Spencer, TWIA*

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - Bring Out Those Memories!**

TWiA is on the hunt for items that can be included in a display of memorabilia to help celebrate 20 years of TWiA.

If you have any items you'd like to loan, please contact Maureen Holland.

Ph.0409 020 417 [brumaurtolisa@hotmail.com](mailto:brumaurtolisa@hotmail.com)

To Past Treasurer Sheryl Rockliff:

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture extends its deepest sympathy to Sheryl, Bill & family on the passing of Sheryl's mother. We hope you many happy memories of the time you have spent with your Mum, be it as a child and as an adult. Our thoughts go out to you.

**Remember that 2014 is the year of another Tasmanian Women on Farms Gathering.**

Details will be available early in the New Year for this event to be held in May, 2014.

Bring along a friend and introduce her to TWiA. It is a great time to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

The Official Newsletter of  
Tasmanian Women in  
Agriculture Inc.

**POSTAGE PAID**

Attach Postage label here.

Website: [W.W.W. TWIA.ORG.AU](http://W.W.W.TWIA.ORG.AU)  
Visit us on Facebook.....

**TWIA FORWARD PLANNER 2013 -2014**

NOVEMBER	2013	CONTACT
1 Nov	TWiA OCA nominations cut off date – Extended until 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2013.	Annette Reed <a href="mailto:anreed@hamboursat.com.au">anreed@hamboursat.com.au</a>
1 Nov Fri	Break O Day TWiA Liese and Paul Fearman's cherry orchard and nature conservation, at 436 Upper Scamander Road. Guest speaker Dr Lois Kohneken, river expert! Time: 10:20 – 2pm.	Liese Fearman 0407 230 354
6 Nov Wed	<b>Meander Valley Regional Group</b>	<a href="mailto:gmjfield@activ8.net.au">gmjfield@activ8.net.au</a>
12 Nov Thurs	Quamby Regional Group Carrick Hotel 6.00 for 6.30 Dinner Guest Speakers: 2013 Marcus Oldham College Awards	Rhonda Spencer 0438 358 432 <a href="mailto:tottlehill@bigpond.com">tottlehill@bigpond.com</a>
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov Friday	TWiA Christmas Luncheon at Deloraine Hosted by Meander Valley Group Bush Inn	Deb Morice <a href="mailto:parkviewfarming@hotmail.com">parkviewfarming@hotmail.com</a> 6368 1249 0408 990 927 Joan Field <a href="mailto:gmjfield@activ8.net.au">gmjfield@activ8.net.au</a>
DECEMBER	RIRDIC Award Winners Announced	Rebecca Williams <a href="mailto:rebecca.williams@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">rebecca.williams@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec Wed	Meander Valley Regional Group	Joan Field <a href="mailto:gmjfield@activ8.net.au">gmjfield@activ8.net.au</a>
<b>2014</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of TWiA</b>	<b>International Year of Family Farming 2014</b>
Thurs Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>State Exec Meeting</b> , Prospect 10.00am	Rosie Mackinnon <a href="mailto:armackin@intas.net.au">armackin@intas.net.au</a>
Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Mon & Tues	Influential Women Forum Hosted by Catherine Marriott	Catherine Marriott 0400 129 279 <a href="mailto:Catherine@influentialwomen.com.au">Catherine@influentialwomen.com.au</a>
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	TWiA AGM 10.00am at Perth/Longford	Rhonda Spencer 0438 358 432 <a href="mailto:tottlehill@bigpond.com">tottlehill@bigpond.com</a>
May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs, Fri, Sat	AGFEST	Rhonda Spencer Ph 0438 358 432 <a href="mailto:tottlehill@bigpond.com">tottlehill@bigpond.com</a>
<b>May 23<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Gathering at Circular Head	Sharalyn Walters <a href="mailto:Sharalyn.walters@education.tas.gov.au">Sharalyn.walters@education.tas.gov.au</a> Cheryl Pedley <a href="mailto:cheryllepedley@bigpond.com">cheryllepedley@bigpond.com</a>
End of May	Celebrating Farm Day	Each Regional Group host a Farm Day ??