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New Chairman Confirmed at AGM

Mr Jim Wilson has begun his two year term as Chairman of TAPG following the completion of Mr Les Murdoch’s term. Jim represents the Plantation Forestry sector of our Board and is currently the Plantation Operations and Services Manager of the State for Gunns. Jim was elected with the unanimous support of all Directors. I am sure all members wish Jim well as he takes on the leadership of our Group at a particularly difficult time both for Forestry and the Agricultural Industry in general.
At the first meeting of the new Board on December 5, the Directors agreed that we would pursue an earlier proposal to conduct a Mid-Winter Industry Forum in 2013. While the Forum is still in the planning stages the following details will guide the concept:

- **Time:** August 2013
- **Venue:** Burnie or other NW Coast facility
- **Format:** Single day program
- **Speakers/Topics:** Morning session will look at global influences/trends affecting our industry. This will be followed by a series of speakers providing commentary/updates on critical Tasmanian issues/developments. Suggestions for topics to be covered will be welcomed but issues such as Freight, GMO status, Irrigation expansion, Infrastructure provision are all likely to be included.
- **A highlight of the day will be the inaugural presentation of the TAPG “Award for Excellence” to recognise outstanding achievement within our industry. Further details regarding selection criteria and nomination processes will be provided in later Member Updates.**

Please provide any feedback on this matter to the EO in the first instance.
**Food Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC)**

This committee is a non-statutory advisory body that was formed following the launch of the State’s Economic Development Plan and provides advice directly to the Minister. Its membership covers all peak industry representation groups, several companies such as Brown Brothers and Fonterra together with very senior members of the DPIPW.E.

Membership is by invitation and is initially for a two year term that may be extended by the Minister. It is pleasing to report that TAPG’s membership has been extended for a further two year term and that our Executive Officer has been appointed as the new Deputy Chairman. The new Chairman is Owen Carrington Smith who is currently a Director and Consultant to the Salmon Industry.

Amongst a very full, ongoing agenda, the committee is engaged with debate designed to improve Industry/Government consultation and, in the New Year, will be looking at the potential for the local production of Ethanol/Bio-diesel in Tasmania as a means to lower input costs in food production.

**Controlled Traffic Farming**

Following a successful industry forum conducted earlier in the year the organising committee, representing the partnership between CCNRM, TIA and TAPG, have agreed to sponsor the attendance of a group at the first International Controlled Traffic Farming Conference to be held at Toowoomba in February next year. Expressions of Interest have been sent out to all our contacts and the EOI form and Conference Brochure will also be available on our website: [www.tapg.net](http://www.tapg.net)
Standing sub-committees established

In an attempt to better serve its members the Board have adopted an approach where-by specific purpose committees can be formed and operate under the audit and constitutional umbrella of TAPG. Two such groups have been formed to date:

- Tasmanian Fresh Vegetable Marketing Group – This committee is continuing the work of the previous VIMC. Its members consist of Moore’s, Charlton’s, Premium Fresh and Harvest Moon. The group is currently planning its directions for next year following its first year of operation and resultant learning.
- Potatoes Tasmania – This group are critically concerned with issues associated with seed certification, PCN and Potato Psyllid monitoring. This is a relatively new group whose activities and approaches are still being developed. However, representatives of the group have been engaged in discussions with TIA and TFGA.
- Initial contact with either of these standing committees can be made through the Executive Officer, TAPG.

Member Survey

Thank you to all those members who responded to the “on-line” survey circulated for response earlier in the year.

The Board have now considered the results carefully and actions planned to implement the recommendations that emerged. The “Mid-Winter Forum” outlined earlier is one such initiative that emerged from these discussions.
Particularly pleasing for the Board was the strong congruence between the stated aims of the organisation and the actual activities in pursuit of their achievement.

It was also obvious that our work on Ag/Vet Chemical Regulations, Freight/Logistics and Bio-security were all highly supported by the membership.

Members indicated that they believe TAPG is most successful at providing a “multi-sectoral approach to issues and providing a cooperative forum for all industry sectors”.

The challenge remains “to work within our means” in pursuing this ever widening raft of industry challenges.

The full report is available as a discrete document alongside this newsletter

Best wishes for the Festive Season and we look forward to your continuing support in the New Year.

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