



Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group

May 2015 Newsletter

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Board Membership Update

The Board recently accepted the resignation of Rodney McLaren who has been representing the Vegetable Processing sector for the past two years. Changes of role responsibilities within the company had necessitated this move. In addressing this extra-ordinary vacancy the Board have appointed Gregory Bullock from McCain's who will occupy the vacant position for the remainder of the term that expires in October, 2016.

**Board Membership:
As ratified by members at AGM - 24/10/2014
and noting the results of the extra-ordinary vacancy resolution.**

Vegetable Processing	Gregory Bullock	Term concludes Oct 2016
Plantation Forestry	Jim Wilson Chairman	Term concludes Oct 2016
Other Crop Processing	Rick Rockliff Rohan Kile	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

The Minister of the day is invited to send a representative to all Board Meetings as a non-voting "Observer". The current representative is Mr Ashley Bastock.

Caring for Country-Innovation Grants – Project Update:

All “autumn field work” using our sub-soiler has now been completed. A wide range of crops have been planted over our sub-soil improvements and we look forward to monitoring the yields over the next two seasons. All work has been GPS located and recorded combined with random placement to ensure we minimise any geographically specific influences from within the paddocks.

The following represents our next steps:

- The project will subsidise a small team of Tasmanians to attend the International CTF Conference. The team supported will represent 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.
- Some further expenditure on smaller machinery modifications is predicted to assist farming collaborators more successfully practise CTF.
- The Project Team will be working with, at least, two farming enterprises to assist them through the early stages of CTF adoption. This process begins with a desk-top exercise that reflects whole farm analysis and planning of both immediate and long term goals.

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

For further information, including requests for involvement in transition planning to CTF, please contact the Executive Officer.

Precision Agriculture EXPO, 23 April, Deloraine Community Complex

The EXPO enjoyed terrific weather, great Industry support and high levels of participation from a very wide cross section of the agricultural community.

Over two hundred people attended the formal opening session that was Officially Opened by our Chairman, Jim Wilson with many more visiting throughout the day.

This opening presentation heard from the Hon Gary Nairn, independent chair of TASSIC (Tasmanian Spatial Information Council) speaking on how spatial information underpins economic prosperity.

This was followed by Scott Strong, Program Manager, Geodetic Systems, DPIPWE, whose address was titled: Spatial Technology: Trends, traps and opportunities. These were both high quality presentations that left the audience enthusiastic to visit the Trade Show represented by the balance of the day's program and find out more information.

Twenty four Spatial Technology providers and twelve Machinery providers exhibited their wares around the theme of PAg. A highlight of the day was undoubtedly the live demonstrations in Keith and Brady Davis' paddock adjacent to the complex. Spectator viewing was available right out into the demonstration area with many participants taking the opportunity to ride in the tractors as they all showed their capacity to self-steer and carry out other aspects of PAg.

All exhibitors reported high levels of interest throughout the day and indicated their desire that the EXPO become a regular event!

The photos below show some aspects of the EXPO



Hon Gary Nairn Presentation



One of the 24 Spatial Technology booths



TAPG's Sub-soiler demonstration

Precision Agriculture Project – Funding Success

It is pleasing to report that the submission preparation mentioned in the December Newsletter has been successful with the Deputy Premier, Jeremy Rockliff announcing almost half a million dollars in funding to be spent over the next three years. With this project DPIPWE will act as the “client” with services being provided from both TAPG and TIA. At the time of writing a meeting was about to be held with DPIPWE to sort out the mechanics of how the project plans would be funded and reported. The actual implementation will be overseen by a joint TAPG/TIA committee chaired by TAPG.

Members will be advised of further details regarding the Project once these matters listed above are resolved.

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

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